



# REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF  
FUND, 1897,

WITH

COMPLETE ACCOUNTS AND PROCEEDINGS,

INCLUDING THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' FIRST AND  
SECOND REPORTS,

AND THE

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES' REPORTS,

From January to October 1897.

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VOL. I.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS.

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CALCUTTA:

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA,  
1898.

**CALCUTTA:**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL PRINTING OFFICE,**  
**8, HASTINGS STREET,**  
**- A -**

## PREFACE.

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THE Central Executive Committee issued their first report on September 6th, 1897, when the famine was beginning to abate. In Part I a history was given of the foundation of the Fund and the earlier operations of the Central Committee, followed in Parts II and III by an account of the Provincial and District Committees, with illustrations of the operations in progress.

Accounts of receipts and expenditure were also rendered up to the 31st July. Up to that date out of about ₹1,60,00,000, ₹90,00,000 had been expended.

In order to place subscribers and the public in possession of as complete information as practicable, in September 1897 the Central Committee invited the Provincial Committees to forward complete reports on the work of the Fund from the commencement up to 31st October 1897, by which date it was anticipated the distribution of the Fund would be almost complete. The Central Committee have reviewed the results so obtained in Part I of their second report. This will be found immediately following the first report, which has been reproduced *verbatim*, so that all particulars relating to the Fund in India may be easily accessible to persons interested in it, either at the present time, or when a future famine occurs. The tabulated accounts, however, which were attached to that report, have been omitted, as the figures are incorporated in those now appended to the second report. These show that up to 31st October nearly ₹1,42,00,000 had been expended. In Part II of the second report will be found a brief account of the further expenditure by Provincial Committees for the period from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898, by which time the fund had grown to ₹1,70,00,000, relief operations were, with few exceptions, brought to a conclusion, and about ₹12,00,000 more distributed in relief, in addition to an endowment of ₹6,00,000, made by the Central Committee itself, for the maintenance of friendless orphans after the famine. Part III of the second report gives a brief account of the Central Committee's entire transactions up to their last meeting on the 25th March 1898, when they wound up with a balance of nearly ₹5,00,000 invested as the nucleus of a fund for use in future famines, to which will shortly be added further refunds of unspent balances received from various parts of India, probably amounting to ₹75,000 more. The remaining sum of ₹4,00,000 has either been expended on relief since January 31st, or has been left with Provincial and District Committees (principally in Madras and Bombay) where distress is not yet extinct, and relief operations are expected to continue for several more months.

The Provincial reports themselves, dealing with an expenditure of nearly ₹1,42,00,000 out of ₹1,70,00,000, the total sum of the Fund, are printed in the second volume.

*The 25th March 1898.*



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# FIRST REPORT

OF

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

## INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897,

FROM JANUARY TO JULY 1897.

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### PART I.

The Central Executive Committee,

CONSEQUENT on the premature cessation of the annual rains at the end of August 1896, the principal or autumn crops failed over large tracts of India, the prices of food-grains rose to double the ordinary rate, and grain-riots occurred in parts of the country. The Famine Commission laid down that when the whole outturn of the year is diminished to 25 per cent.\* of a full crop, it may be taken as certain that intense famine will prevail and that prices of food-grains will rise generally to three times their ordinary amount.† Judged by these standards it became apparent that famine was imminent over an unprecedentedly large portion of the Indian continent, and that in certain tracts where there had been famine also in the year 1895, or where a succession of short crops for several years past had greatly reduced the resources of the people and special measures for relief had been undertaken from time to time, the coming famine would be of an unusually severe type. Since the great famine in the Deccan and Mysore, in 1876-77, the Government of India had systematically carried out a series of protective railways through the areas most liable to scarcity, so that the danger of food-supply running short was not apprehended. Moreover, in accordance with the Famine Commission's recommendations, the organisation for dealing with famines had everywhere been elaborated and systematised and the duties of every one concerned with them laid down in precise Famine Codes, on the principle enunciated by the Famine Commission, that "it is a paramount duty of the State to give all the practical assistance to the people in time of famine and to devote all its available resources to this end, and this duty is emphasised by the fact that in India the Government stands in the place of landlord to the agriculturists, who form the great mass of the population". In every province lists of works to give employment to the able-bodied had been carefully drawn up and revised from time to time, as well as clear and precise regulations for the gratuitous relief of the weak, the infirm and aged. Consequently all was ready, and it was only a question for the Local Governments to decide when the distress was sufficiently acute to initiate active relief. No time, indeed, was lost, the present policy being to afford employment or food in good time, before the people have begun to suffer physically from the dearth. Everywhere a commencement was made in the worst affected districts first, and as time progressed the measures of relief were extended to all parts where

Introductory.

\* *Report of the Indian Famine Commission*—C. 2591, Eyre and Spottiswoode, Printers to Her Majesty, 1880.

† In this famine, owing to the extension of railways, although prices in many parts have more than doubled the normal, they have very seldom gone up to three times the ordinary price. Examples of famine and normal prices will be found at page 103.

the people were seriously suffering. On the 5th of June 1897, the number of persons being relieved by the Government were as follows:—

PROVINCES.	Famine affected area in square miles.	Population.	Persons on Relief Works.	Persons on gratuitous relief.	TOTAL.
Madras . . . . .	60,879	10,477,135	354,097	94,664	448,761
Bombay . . . . .	58,327	10,773,243	316,000	36,770	352,770
Bengal . . . . .	64,777	29,748,363	425,023	420,462	845,485
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	78,060	37,544,014	1,143,089	386,286	1,529,375
Punjab . . . . .	37,934	9,281,524	83,543	15,401	98,944
Central Provinces . . . . .	88,643	10,784,294	561,338	115,396	676,734
Burma . . . . .	12,287	775,072	12,464	3,152	15,616
Berar . . . . .	17,717	2,897,040	25,610	4,688	30,298
Hyderabad . . . . .	27,599	3,748,370	24,024	1,403	25,427
Central India . . . . .	47,396	6,728,010	154,783	23,585	178,368
Rajputana . . . . .	83,618	5,408,432	15,310	7,111	22,421
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROVINCES . . . . .	575,237	128,185,497	3,115,281	1,108,918	4,224,199

NOTE.—The figures in the second and third columns occasionally include areas and populations of portions of districts which are not so affected by famine as to require relief. They are taken from a return issued by the Government of India on 29th June 1897. An abstract showing the largest number of persons on Government relief in each province in any one week will be found at page 82.

The Charitable Relief Fund.

The Government policy.

The Famine Commission in paragraph 188 of their Report expressed the opinion that when Government made efficient arrangements for relieving famine-stricken, there was no reason for appealing to the public to aid the Government by contributions, but that charitable assistance should be welcomed and encouraged for certain purposes. These purposes and the policy of the Government of India in regard to private charity may be described in the Government's own words\* :—

"Government fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with it, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organised for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially, private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects:—

"Firstly: in supplementing the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for patients in hospitals, for children and the like."

"As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life."

"Secondly: in providing for the maintenance of orphans."

"Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves."

"Thirdly: in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of, the destitution which is to be relieved."

The feeling of the sacredness of the 'purdah' or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty the existence of distress of this nature."

\* See correspondence with the Secretary of State for India, published in the Gazette of India, January 9th, 1897 (Appendix A, page 63).

"Fourthly: *In restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*"

"The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer."

On October 15th Sir John Woodburn, the member of the Government in charge of the Department which deals with Famine affairs, made a statement in Council as to the consequences anticipated from the failure of the rains, and the manner in which the Government proposed to meet them. The Viceroy's speech on this occasion contained a reference to the charitable co-operation of the public, which has already begun in certain places, and explained the attitude of the Government in welcoming such assistance. Sir John Woodburn's speech.

"One word I should like to add as to non-official co-operation. I have seen with much satisfaction that in Delhi, and I think elsewhere, those who possess means have taken steps to combine for the alleviation of the distress of their poorer neighbours. I shall not be suspected of any desire of shirking official responsibility if I welcome most cordially efforts of this kind. In this country the Government must undertake the relief of the people as a whole and the rules under which it works have been framed so as to reach the really necessitous, both the able-bodied poor and those unable to share in the ordinary forms of active employment by reason of infirmities of body, of sex, or even of social custom; but still, here as in every country, private benevolence has a long arm, which can reach further than the official one, and I rejoice to think that if need be it will be outstretched on this occasion. It will be an example of the neighbourly kindness for which the people of India are distinguished." The Viceroy welcomes local charity.

But while accepting the principles laid down in the letter quoted above and cordially welcoming the efforts of local charity, the Government of India hesitated before countenancing any appeal to the munificence of a wider public, until the magnitude of the famine could be thoroughly gauged. It was possible that if heavy rain fell in the early winter, large areas of land might be sown with *rabi* or winter crops, which, by adding to the food-supply, would materially diminish the magnitude of the impending disaster and possibly render such an appeal unnecessary. In the event, these anticipations were partly realised. The situation was much relieved by the rainfall of November; and in December and January also cold weather showers fell in many parts of the country. Spring crops were sown and germinated, though not to the full extent of the normal area.

India was thus saved from the worst that it was anticipated could happen; but by the beginning of January it became clear that, even with the assistance of the winter rains, the famine would be of the gravest character and of very wide extent. The Lord Mayor and various public bodies in England had been in communication with the Secretary of State as to the desirability of opening a Famine Relief Fund. A Provincial Fund had already been started in Bombay, at a public meeting held on 22nd December 1896, at which Lord Sandhurst presided; and on January 5th the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal received a letter from Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and similar letters from other bodies, requesting him to invite the Viceroy to preside at a meeting for the purpose of inaugurating a fund. Accordingly, at the meeting of Council on the 7th January, the Viceroy announced his intention of accepting this invitation. The following extracts from His Excellency's speech explain the position at that time:—

"When I spoke on this subject in this Council at Simla, I ventured to say that the private charity for which the people of India have ever been distinguished would no doubt be forth-coming to reach distress which Government methods could not deal with so satisfactorily. My expectations have been fulfilled; I have heard of Relief Committees in all parts of the affected provinces, and I know that the Local Governments and their officials have readily co-operated and assisted them in their work." Viceroy accepts invitation to a public meeting.

"A good deal has been said recently of the organization of private charity on a large scale and of appeals for assistance from a wider field. I do not know if Hon'ble Members are fully aware of the position of Government in this matter. After the Madras Famine of 1877, a correspondence took place between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on this subject,

and the Secretary of State (Lord Salisbury) gave his decision in May, 1878, in the following words :—

‘You are of opinion that, in cases of future famine, no appeal should be made by a Local Government to the charity of an English public, excepting with the approval of the Governor-General in Council; that the Governor-General in Council should, in the first instance, define the objects to which (as distinct from the obligation devolving on the Government) such charity will be devoted; and that, to inspire confidence in the public, as well as to secure the efficient administration of the funds, local Committees should conduct their operations under the control of Government, and with the co-operation of its officers.

‘I entirely concur in the soundness of these principles.’

“This declaration of principles still stands, and, so soon as my attention was directed to them, I put myself into communication with the Heads of Local Governments, and as I was on tour I had the advantage of conferring personally with many of them. I was thus enabled to bring the matter before my colleagues immediately the Government re-assembled in Calcutta, and at our first Council we, in obedience to the orders of 1878, drew up the definition of the objects to which private charity might be usefully devoted. These papers accordingly are now in the hands of Local Governments; they have also been forwarded to the Secretary of State. The despatch \* will reach him on Monday; but with Lord George Hamilton’s permission, we shall publish it and its enclosures in the *Gazette* on Saturday. † I venture to think that Hon’ble Members will agree that in these proceedings we have wasted no time, and that we may hope to have attained the object which no doubt underlies the orders, *i.e.*, that as a consequence of what we have done, this movement can be prosecuted here, in England, or elsewhere, for a common purpose which all can understand, as a common cause in which all can co-operate.

“We know now that, over a large part of the country where a *rabi* crop is of primary importance, we can look forward with a fair amount of confidence. That means (as the Hon’ble Member has said) that we have reason to believe that we have escaped what has been described as likely to be the greatest calamity of the century. But, on the other hand, the statement of the Hon’ble Member has also shown that there must be over wide districts, in several provinces, a distress affecting thousands, perhaps millions, of persons for a period that must be measured by months, and a statement of that kind justifies us in saying that private charity can usefully intervene in the manner and for the purposes which we have ourselves defined.

“I have accordingly to inform the Council that having received an invitation from the citizens of Calcutta, headed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to attend a public meeting on the question, I propose with the utmost readiness to do so. I have reason to believe that this meeting in India will be closely followed by a meeting in London, and I can only say that as we have paved the way, so we shall do all in our power to make these meetings and the movements they initiate in every a success.”

On the 14th January the meeting, ‡ convened by the Sheriff, was held in the Dalhousie Institute at Calcutta, and the following resolutions were passed :—

“That this meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country and contributions from abroad be thankfully received.”

“That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund; and *resolves* that a General Committee, composed of the following gentlemen, be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund.”

The objects, four in number, set forth in the *Gazette of India* have already

\* See Appendix A. page 63.

† January 5th, 1897.

‡ A report of the meeting, and the list of the General Committee will be found in Appendix B, page 69. The Viceroy was elected President, and the Heads of Governments and Administrations Vice-Presidents of the General Committee.

been stated on page 2. The organisation suggested by the Government of India for the collection and administration of private subscriptions was as follows :—

- (1) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee, for the provision and administration of Charitable Relief, to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers and nominations of representatives from each province likely to be affected by famine to be invited.

The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee, consisting of a limited number of members to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee.

The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be :—

- (a) To receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries, and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed "The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897";
- (b) to apportion these moneys between the different Provinces;
- (c) to arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.
- (2) A Committee to be formed in each Province, which will receive the moneys apportioned to that Province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the Province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval of the Local Government.
- (3) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.
- (4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency, which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

The Viceroy in his speech explained the principles of the organisation adopted by the meeting as follows :— The Viceroy's speech.

"I cannot too strongly impress upon you my sense of the importance of laying the full responsibility for the actual administration of charitable funds on those who are in a position to act with knowledge of the local circumstances. Any attempt at minute control over all India from one centre will result in lamentable failure. I, therefore, earnestly hope that in accordance with the scheme of organisation which will be submitted to the meeting, the formation of Provincial Committees will follow closely on the formation of the Central Committee here to-day; and that the principles of action being once laid down, the Provincial Committees will be allowed the amplest discretion in the management of their own funds. These funds will consist, in the first place, of all subscriptions which the donors desire should be exclusively devoted to their own Province, and in the second place of the proportion of the General Fund which may be allotted to the Province by the Central Committee. The General Fund should consist of the money entrusted to the Central Committee, either by those in India who desire to give help wherever it is most required, or by those in England and elsewhere who cannot, from so great a distance, determine themselves where the great need may be. I feel certain that this division and definition of duties from the first will promote efficiency and prevent waste. The Central Committee, in the collection of subscriptions and in the determination of their allocation, will have enough to do to tax the energies of the most devoted workers, and a duty which only a body of a representative character, with the fullest sense of its responsibility, can adequately discharge. In the Provincial Committees they will find no rivals, but allies, who will bring to the whole system the elasticity on which its success will mainly depend.

"I scarcely think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that it is necessary for me to promise the help and co-operation of Government and its officers in every department of this work. My honourable friend, Sir John Woodburn, last week paid a just tribute to the spirit in which local officers (by which I am sure he meant all local officers, Native and European) are meeting the call made upon them. We know by only too sad experience that they do not hesitate to risk health and strength, and even life itself, and I am confident that their assistance



and co-operation will be readily and fully given towards employing to the best advantage the fund we are about to raise."

A sum of more than 2 lakhs of rupees was subscribed in the room.

Formation of Executive Committee.

The first meeting of the General Committee was held in the same place on the 15th January, the Honourable Sir Francis Maclean, Kt., Q.C., Chief Justice of Bengal, in the chair, when the following resolutions passed :—

"That the following gentlemen form the Executive Committee with power to add to their number,"

*Chairman :*

The Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, Kt., Q. C., Chief Justice of Bengal.\*

*Members :*

The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., Member of Council, in charge of the Home and Revenue and Agricultural Departments.

" " The Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga, K.C.I.E., of Durbhanga, Bengal.

" " Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind.

" " Mr. M. R. Ry. P. Ananda Charlu, Rai Bahadur, of Madras.

" " The Nawab of Loharu, C.I.E., of Maler Kotla, Punjab.

" " Rao Sahib Bulwant Rao Bhuskate, of Burhanpur, Central Provinces.

" " Mr. (now Sir) P. Playfair, C.I.E., Chairman of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce.

" " Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani, M.A., LL.B., of Bombay.

" " Pandit Bishambar Nath, of Allahabad, North-Western Provinces.

" " Babu Joy Gobind Law, of Calcutta.

" " Mr. M. Finucane, Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

" " Mr. A. H. Wallis, *Emeritus* Master of the Trades Association, Calcutta.

The Venerable Welbore MacCarthy, Archdeacon of Calcutta.

Mr. T. W. Holderness, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Famine).

Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee, C.S.I., of Utterpara, near Calcutta.

Mr. S. Finney, Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

*Honorary Secretary.*

Colonel J. W. Ottley, C.I.E., R.E.

"That the General Committee shall authorise the Executive Committee to publish from time to time additional lists of gentlemen desirous of joining the General Committee.

The following additional members were subsequently added to the Executive Committee :—

*On the 21st January—*

Mr. C. H. Moore, of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co., Calcutta.

" S. Lawrie Johnstone, Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co., Calcutta.

" S. E. J. Clarke, Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (since deceased).

*On the 22nd March—*

Colonel Ottley, C. I. E., R. E., on his retiring from the office of Honorary Secretary owing to ill-health.

*On the 29th March—*

The Hon'ble Mr. C. C. Stevens, C.S.I., Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, Bengal,

Major W. Bird, Controller of Military Accounts, Calcutta.

*On the 30th June—*

Mr. E. N. Baker, Collector of Customs, Calcutta, and Honorary Secretary, Bengal Provincial Committee (the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens having resigned).

Meetings of Executive Committee.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce kindly placed a set of rooms at the disposal of the Committee, where on the 18th January the first meeting of the Executive Committee was held. The first measure resolved upon was to write to the heads of the Governments or Administrations in the different provinces, inviting them to form Provincial Committees for distributing such funds as might be sent to them, and to affiliate to those Committees any charitable organisations already formed for assisting the famine-stricken. It was settled

Appeal for funds.

\* The designations of the Chairman and Members have been added.

also that telegrams should be sent to various parts of the world, inviting subscriptions, and in carrying out this plan, Reuter's agency at Calcutta gave valuable assistance to the Committee. The starting of an organisation to collect subscriptions in England had been left to the Secretary of State. On January 9th the "*Times*" published a letter from the Lord Mayor of London, enclosing one from Lord George Hamilton, and announcing that he had opened a subscription list at the Mansion House; and Her Majesty the Queen-Empress at once sent a first contribution of £500, which was repeated later. Similar lists were opened immediately by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, by Lord Derby and Sir Frank Forbes Adam in Manchester for the county of Lancashire, and by the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Other towns and places in the United Kingdom sent their subscriptions to one of the above funds. A public meeting, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, was held at the Guildhall on January 16th, at which His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K.G., and Lord George Hamilton were amongst the speakers. In India itself, subscription-lists were opened by the Central Executive Committee and also by all Provincial Committees, it being left to subscribers to name any particular province or place to which they wished their subscriptions allocated. Circulars were also sent by the Honorary Secretary, Colonel Ottley, to all Regiments and Batteries, to Factories and Railways, Tea-gardens, Masonic Institutions and the like, throughout India. The Bishop of Calcutta kindly arranged to have collections made in all churches throughout India and Ceylon, and offers of assistance came in from all quarters. The principal Indian newspapers generously offered to publish advertisements of subscriptions free. The Government of India allowed the Central Committee ₹1,500 a month towards office expenses. They also agreed to remit money free through their treasuries on behalf of the fund, and to allow the printing of the Central Executive Committee to be done *gratis* at the Government of India press. The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, Ltd., kindly promised to convey all messages to the Straits, China, etc., free, and numerous offers in kind, such as of rice, or patent foods suitable for emaciated or starving persons, were made. The first two subscriptions from the United Kingdom were both from Liverpool, received on the 22nd and 30th of January for ₹79,503-1-8 and ₹77,890-7-6, respectively, and the first two from other countries were from Singapore on the 30th January and 1st February of ₹21,970 and ₹11,760, collected by Mr. Arnot Reid, Editor of the *Straits Times*. The Central Committee lost no time in distributing these funds to the provinces, remitting on the 25th January sums to the amount of ₹1,10,000, and ₹2,00,000 on the 1st February following. The Committee opened an account with the Bank of Bengal. For some time the Honorary Secretary, Colonel Ottley, R.E. (whose arduous and incessant labours were unfortunately determined by a serious illness), himself acted as Honorary Treasurer, but on the 23rd February, the duties of Treasurers were made over to a firm of Accountants in Calcutta, Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, for a remuneration of ₹600, which was afterwards increased to ₹800 a month. The firm appointed as their agent Mr. W. Metcalfe, who not only kept the accounts and managed all receipts and remittances, but from the first gave intelligent and material assistance in the office work of the Committee.

Gratuitous assistance given to the Committee.

Meanwhile, letters arrived from the Vice-Presidents reporting the creation of Provincial Committees, the composition of which were unusually strong. The following is a list of the Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries:—

Formation of Provincial Committees.

### *Bengal.*

#### CHAIRMAN.

The Hon'ble C. C. Stevens, C.S.I., Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, succeeded by Mr. W. H. Grimley, I.C.S., Member of the Board of Revenue.

#### HONORARY SECRETARY.

Mr. E. N. Baker, I.C.S., Collector of Customs.

### *Madras.*

The Hon'ble C. S. Crole, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue.

Mr. H. Beauchamp, Editor of the *Madras Mail*.  
Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur P. Rajarathnam Moodelliar, Inspector General of Registration.

*Bombay.*

H. E. the Lord Sandhurst, G. C. I. E., President.	Mr. (now Sir) George Colton, succeeded in July by Mr. A. K. Leslie.
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*North-Western Provinces and Oudh (Joint Committee).*

The Hon'ble Sir John Edge, Kt. Q.C., Chief Justice of Allahabad.	Mr. J. W. Hose, I.C.S., Registrar of the High Court.
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*North-West Provinces.*

The Hon'ble Sir John Edge, Kt. Q.C., Chief Justice of Allahabad.	Mr. J. W. Hose, I.C.S., Registrar of the High Court.
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*Oudh.*

Mr. J. Deas, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner.	Mr. L. C. Porter, I.C.S., City Magistrate of Lucknow.
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*Punjab.*

The Hon'ble Sir William Rattigan, suc- ceeded by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Reid.	Mr. D. P. Masson, Manager of the Punjab Banking Co. (Ld.) Mr. C. H. Atkins, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner.
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*Burma.*

The Hon'ble Sir Frederick Fryer, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Burma.	Mr. W. F. Noyce, Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioner.
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*Central Provinces.*

Mr. L. Ismay, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner.	Rai Bahadur Bipin Krishne Bose, Public Prosecutor. Mr. J. T. Marten, I.C.S., Assistant Commis- sioner.
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*Berar.*

Mr. F. S. Bullock, I.C.S., Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.	Mr. Bandhuji Janardan. Mr. K. N. Mudholkar.
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*Central India.*

Colonel D. Barr, C.S.I., Agent to the Gover- nor-General in Central India.	Captain A. D. Bannerman, Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General.
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In Rajputana and Baluchistan no Provincial Committees were formed, the money being entrusted to the Agent to the Governor-General of the Province for distribution through the Political Officers.

The Central Committee cannot speak too highly of the assistance rendered to them by many of the above gentlemen.

Growth of the  
Fund.

Contributions to the Fund came rapidly in, and on February 2nd, Glasgow sent £25,000, followed by Edinburgh the next day with £4,000. On February 10th the first subscription of £100,000 arrived from the Mansion House, and on March 23rd the first subscription for the same amount came from the Lancashire County Fund. On February 12th Canada, whose zeal for the Fund, stimulated by the interest shown by the Governor-General, the Earl of Aberdeen, and also by the extraordinary and most kind exertions of the "*Montreal Daily Star*", sent \$1,00,000, which was succeeded by a remittance of the same amount on February 23rd.\* Nor were other British Colonies behind. As early as January 31st the Straits Settlements (through the kind aid of the "*Straits Times*") sent \$21,970, followed on February 12th by Hong-Kong with \$50,000 and on the 18th by Victoria with £1,000. So many of the Provinces in India were themselves afflicted by famine that subscriptions raised locally were generally appropriated to local wants. But Madras sent \$50,000 and Burma \$55,000, in spite of their own needs. Sympathy in foreign countries too was not lacking. From Russia, Sweden, Japan, Siam and South Africa subscriptions came in: the Consul-General of France at Calcutta subscribed \$1,500 on the part of his Government, and the Government of the Netherlands also remitted 1,500 guilders. And as time went on, substantial contributions

\* All parts of the Dominion contributed liberally, including some of the Provincial Governments, and the subscriptions from school-children are specially numerous.

arrived from the other Australian Colonies, from New Zealand and Tasmania, and from Ceylon, Gibraltar and Mauritius subscribed handsomely, as did Natal, Trinidad and the Fiji Islands. Canada, whose sympathetic generosity has been most marked, sent five remittances each of Rs 1,00,000 in a little more than two months. The treaty-ports in China and Japan also sent very liberal sums. Where all have been so generous, it is perhaps invidious to make any distinction, and a complete abstract of all the subscriptions, and the growth of the Fund, month by month, up to the 31st August, will be found in Appendix D, pages 128 to 142. A magnificent subscription was raised by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, the remittances from which amounted on the date just mentioned to £533,000,\* though the liberality of the County of Lancashire, which in all subscribed over £150,000, is entitled to an expression of the Committee's warmest gratitude.

As the funds came in, they were distributed, "on account," to the newly-formed Provincial Committees. So soon as those Committees and the District Committees subordinate to them were in working order, the Central Committee called on them to make such detailed estimates of their needs as at that early stage were possible, and decided to make a distribution upon a large scale on March 22nd. This date was fixed because, owing to the Legislative Session having ended, the members of the Committee who had been chosen as representing different provinces, as well as the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, the Member, and Mr. T. W. Holderness, the Deputy Secretary in charge of the Famine Bureau of the Government of India, were about to leave Calcutta. Very careful consideration was given to this allocation, and the principles on which the money should be divided were much discussed. The estimates of the Provincial Committees far exceeded the amount which, as was then anticipated, the Fund was expected to attain, most of them had been framed on different bases, and the Committee was not in a position to make a comparative appraisal of the wants of all the provinces from personal knowledge. Ultimately it was decided to take as a guide the Indian Government's estimates of famine relief expenditure from public revenues in the several provinces, and to distribute about 50 lakhs of rupees in the same proportions, allowing for the sums already paid on account. This was done, and the following table shows the result:—

Distribution of the Fund to Provincial Committees.

	25th January 1897.	1st February 1897.	5th February 1897.	16th February 1897.	5th March 1897.	22nd March 1897.	Grand Total.	First large distribution of funds.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
N. W. P. and Oudh . . . . .	47,000	80,000	1,30,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	9,65,781	17,15,781	
Bengal . . . . .	37,000	40,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	2,00,000	6,23,750	10,93,750	
Bombay . . . . .	15,000	30,000	...	...	1,00,000	6,08,750	8,43,750	
Central Provinces . . . . .	15,000	30,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	2,00,000	3,34,750	7,81,250	
Madras . . . . .	5,000	10,000	...	...	1,00,000	1,03,750	2,15,750	
Punjab . . . . .	5,000	10,000	...	1,00,000	1,00,000	3,750	2,15,750	
Upper Burma . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1,25,000	1,25,000	
Central India . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	1,00,000	
Beisar . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	25,000	25,000	
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>1,10,000</b>	<b>2,00,000</b>	<b>3,30,000</b>	<b>5,50,000</b>	<b>9,50,000</b>	<b>2,48,251</b>	<b>31,72,251</b>	

At a meeting of the Committee on 29th March it was also decided to remit to the different Provinces the following sums which had been received by the Central Committee in India and ear-marked by the donors for the benefit of

Applications had already been received from two provinces urging that the minimum further grant should be specified, if possible, to assist them in distributing the funds already received. The growth of the Fund during that one week was so considerable (from 75 lakhs to a little more than 100 lakhs) that the Committee felt justified in guaranteeing to the North-Western Provinces Committee a further grant of 13 lakhs and to the Punjab 2 lakhs.

Reason for not making larger grants in March.

The Committee had ascertained from the distressed provinces that in consequence of the efficiency of the Government relief under the different Famine Codes, the large bulk of the Fund would be most usefully devoted to the fourth Object, *viz.*, to restoring to their former position by grants of money, seed or bullocks, the large body of cultivators who without such assistance would be ruined beyond redemption, and be compelled to leave the fields which they and their ancestors had cultivated for hundreds of years, and thus sink into the position of labourers. Similarly, numerous artizans, who had sold their looms and implements of trade would need assistance. But the time for relieving these classes would not come till the approach of the next monsoon, *viz.*, before May and June, and till then the Provincial Committees had sufficient money for the first three objects of the Fund. On the other hand, as the famine developed, the actual sum of distress to be relieved could be better gauged, and it was recognised that the provisional estimates of the Indian Government of famine relief expenditure in the several provinces were not altogether a safe guide, partly because the Local Governments themselves could not foresee what the famine was likely to cost them, partly because the State expenditure was mainly for the relief of classes whom the Fund only slightly touched, and partly because the kinds of relief to be administered by the Fund, did not necessarily bear any relation to that which the Government undertook. Sums that would go a long way in a province where the ploughcattle had not perished for want of fodder and where the ryots would only require grants of seed and assistance towards maintaining themselves till the new crop came in, would be of comparatively slight help in districts where the cattle had died, or been parted with, in very large numbers, since grants for the purchase or even the hire of fresh cattle, as well as of fodder to feed them, would be imperative. Again, people in tracts which had suffered from actual famine during the previous year as in Bundelkhand, or which had experienced failures of crops for three or four years in succession, as in parts of Oudh and the Central Provinces, would require more assistance than in tracts where only one bad failure had occurred, and as the Fund, however large it might become, would only suffice to relieve a comparatively few of the worst cases, it was necessary to ascertain the places where the distress was most acute. The Central Committee therefore determined to send a representative of their own to confer with the Provincial Committees, ascertain from the Local Governments and District Officers the facts of the distress and report to the Central Committee which people were in the greatest need. He was also commissioned to see that the operations of the Fund did not overlap those of the Government and to write accounts of those operations for the information of subscribers. And he was to be specially required to travel as quickly as practicable in order that grants for the fourth Object of the Fund might be given out by the Central Committee and distributed through Provincial Committees in good time before the monsoon.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman to visit distressed provinces.

Tour in Northern and Central India.

This duty was imposed on the Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind, a member of the Committee, the loan of whose services for the purpose indicated the interest taken by the Government of India in the Fund, and the importance they attached to its fair and just distribution. He was elected Vice-Chairman and he also undertook the duties of Honorary Secretary, *vice* Colonel Ottley, whose services were unfortunately lost to the Committee on the 22nd March owing to illness. Colonel Ottley had just completed organising the office and preparing the books and accounts of the Central Committee, he had worked out the innumerable minor details connected with the receipt of subscriptions and the despatch of money and supplies to the distressed provinces, and except for his incessant labours the duties of Honorary Secretary could not have been combined with those of Vice-Chairman. The Committee placed on record their high sense of the services he had rendered them.

Mr. James left Calcutta on the 31st March. He visited in rapid succession Allahabad, Lucknow and several places in Bundelkand, several places in the Central Provinces, and also Lahore, consulting the Local Governments and Committees in each place. On his way back he spent three days with the Commissioner of Patna in the worst districts of Behar. He finally returned to Calcutta on the 25th April, and submitted his report. This was circulated to all Members of the Central Committee, including those who were absent, for consideration, and a general meeting was specially summoned to consider it. The result was that, after three meetings to discuss the subject, at one of which provisional grants were sanctioned for two provinces, on May 11th the Central Committee made the following additional distribution, based mainly upon Mr. James' report and upon a minute recorded by four members of the Committee who were at Simla :—

Second large distribution of funds.

PROVINCE.	Amount granted up to March 29th.	Grants made or confirmed on 11th May 1897.	GRAND TOTAL.
	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>
North-Western Provinces . . . . .	30,18,362	10,00,000	40,18,362
Bengal . . . . .	11,58,075	3,50,000	15,08,075
Bombay . . . . .	8,44,000	.....	8,44,000
Central Provinces . . . . .	7,81,769	14,00,000	21,81,769
Madras . . . . .	2,18,760	1,45,833	3,64,593
Punjab . . . . .	4,31,383	4,00,000	8,31,383
Upper Burma . . . . .	1,25,000	75,000	2,00,000
Central India . . . . .	1,00,000	1,25,000	2,25,000
Berar . . . . .	25,000	25,000	50,000
Rajputana . . . . .	.....	25,000	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>67,02,349*</b>	<b>35,45,833</b>	<b>1,02,48,182</b>

\* This sum includes the amounts of 13 and 2 lakhs guaranteed on March 29th to the North-Western Provinces and Punjab, respectively, and the "ear-marked" funds which had been already paid over.

The Provincial Committee of Madras, which the Vice-Chairman had been unable to visit, had been complaining of the inadequacy of its allotment, and it was therefore decided that Mr. James should go there as soon as possible. A few days were spent in printing off the notes of the Vice-Chairman's tour, which the Chairman desired to send to the Viceroy as President of the General Committee, with a view, if His Excellency thought fit, to their being sent to the Secretary of State for communication to the Lord Mayor of London and others for the information of subscribers. Mr. James again left Calcutta on May 26th, and, after interviews with the Provincial Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar *en route*, went on to Madras, where he conferred with the Government and the Committee of that Province. He then proceeded to three of the most distressed Madras districts where he met the Famine Commissioner and other officials, as well as the District Committees. Thence he made a short tour through the worst parts of the Bombay Presidency and ascertained the facts about a terrible mortality of Cattle. At Poona, he conferred with the Governor of Bombay and many officers of the Fund there, and finally returned to Calcutta on the 26th June, where a second series of Notes on Tour was issued shortly afterwards.

Vice-Chairman visits Central Provinces again Berar, Madras and Bombay.

On leaving the Madras Presidency the Vice-Chairman telegraphed to Sir Francis Maclean advising that a remittance be immediately made to that Committee. The Chairman lost no time in convening the Committee, and an emergent grant of 2 lakhs was sanctioned at once. A full report on the needs of Madras was submitted by the Vice-Chairman to the Committee, as soon as he returned, and on the 30th June the following additional grants were sanctioned and subsequently paid :—

Further *ad interim* grants.

	<i>R</i>
Madras . . . . .	4,00,000
Bengal . . . . .	1,50,000
Central Provinces . . . . .	25,000*
Berar . . . . .	30,000†
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>6,05,000</b>

\* Specially for the Chhatisgarh Feudatory States.

† For the distressed Hill-tract called Melghat and for the Akola District.

Third large  
distribution  
of funds.

Meanwhile, the fund increased and Provincial Committees were again invited by a circular, dated June 21st, to submit details of any special wants that had come to their notice during the progress of operations and for which their funds had proved insufficient. The reports of the Committees were received on 10th July and were at once printed and circulated to all the members, with a review by the Vice-Chairman; and the Chairman summoned a meeting for the 19th July to consider them. The Committee deliberated for two days and carefully discussed the claims of each province *seriatim*. It was then found that in spite of the distribution of Rs 6,05,000 on 30th June, the Central Committee had still 29½ lakhs in hand. Out of this, they resolved to keep back a sum of 6 lakhs, which has since been invested in 3½ per cent. Government Securities, with a view to subsidising later those provincial Committees on whom the burden would fall of providing for a large number of homeless orphans, and a sum of Rs 23,55,000 was distributed as follows :—

Reservation of  
money for orphans  
after the Famine.

PROVINCE.	Allotments made on July 20th.	Total allotments in- cluding that of July 20th and ear-marked funds.
Rajputana . . . . .	<i>Rs Nil</i>	<i>Rs</i> 25,000 <i>a.</i> 0
Baluchistan . . . . .	20,000	20,000 0
Central India . . . . .	1,00,000	3,25,000 0
Berar . . . . .	10,000	90,000 0
Burma . . . . .	25,000	2,25,000 0
Punjab . . . . .	75,000	9,06,383 0
Madras . . . . .	2,00,000	11,64,593 0
Bombay . . . . .	3,50,000	11,94,000 0
Bengal . . . . .	2,00,000	18,58,075 4
N.-W. P. and Oudh . . . . .	5,75,000	45,93,362 0
Central Provinces . . . . .	8,00,000	30,06,769 0
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>23,55,000</b>	<b>1,34,08,182 4</b>

This grant of Rs 20,000 was the first made to Baluchistan and was given on behalf of the very distressed hill-people in that Agency, who for two years from want of rain had suffered severely by the death of their plough-bullocks and the destruction of their flocks and herds. A grant was also applied for on behalf of Gwalior which was considered in allotting funds to the Central India Agency.

The Committee also made over to the Provincial Committee the various sums of ear-marked funds collected by the Central Committee for them since March 29th, which were as follows :—

	<i>Rs</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Bengal . . . . .	6,633	14	6
Punjab . . . . .	200	0	0
Central Provinces . . . . .	269	8	0
North-Western Provinces . . . . .	325	2	1
Bombay . . . . .	250	0	0
Madras . . . . .	284	8	0
Central India . . . . .	50	0	0
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>8,013</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

The grand total of the grants to Provincial Committees, therefore, Total grants made amounted on the 31st July to the following :— by Central Committee.

	R	a.	p.
Rajputana . . . . .	25,000	0	0
Baluchistan . . . . .	20,000	0	0
Central India . . . . .	3,25,050	0	0
Berar . . . . .	90,000	0	0
Burma . . . . .	2,25,000	0	0
Punjab . . . . .	9,06,583	0	0
Madras . . . . .	11,64,877	8	0
Bombay . . . . .	11,94,250	0	0
Bengal . . . . .	18,64,709	2	6
N.-W. P. and Oudh . . . . .	45,93,687	2	1
Central Provinces . . . . .	30,07,038	8	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,34,16,195</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

If to these figures be added the sums collected by Provincial Committees themselves, or by District Committees, and utilised for local needs, the total amount of the Relief Funds, in the hands of Provincial and District Committees for distribution, had reached on 31st July to the following :—

PROVINCE.	Sums received from the Central Committee.	Sums reported as locally collected in the Provinces.	Total of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, received for distribution.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Rajputana . . . . .	25,000 0 0	Nil	25,000 0 0
Baluchistan . . . . .	20,000 0 0	Nil	20,000 0 0
Central India . . . . .	3,25,050 0 0	67,268 13 0	3,92,318 13 0
Berar . . . . .	90,000 0 0	77,391 7 9	1,67,391 7 9
Burma . . . . .	2,25,000 0 0	43,387 15 1	2,68,387 15 1
Punjab . . . . .	9,06,583 0 0	2,28,367 3 10	11,34,950 3 10
Madras . . . . .	11,64,877 8 0	2,07,253 9 8	13,72,131 1 8
Bombay . . . . .	11,94,250 0 0	2,59,794 9 4	14,54,044 9 4
Bengal . . . . .	18,64,709 2 6	4,49,873 6 11	23,14,582 9 5
N.-W. Provinces and Oudh . . . . .	45,93,687 2 1	4,52,212 10 10	50,45,899 12 11
Central Provinces . . . . .	30,07,038 8 0	76,693 10 2	30,83,732 2 2
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,34,16,195 4 7</b>	<b>18,62,243 6 7</b>	<b>1,52,76,438 11 2</b>

The balance of the fund on the 31st July in the hands of the Central Committee itself amounted to Rs. 6,38,281-10-4.\*

A complete statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Central Committee up to the end of August will be found in the Appendix.†

14. Besides the arduous and responsible duty of appraising the needs of different provinces, and allocating the funds where they were most required, the Central Committee have had the task of distributing all over India gifts in kind that have been made them by various charitable firms and individuals. The first of these was a present of 100 large cases of Mellin's food, valued at £350, for the use of the sick and emaciated in orphanages and poor-house hospitals. This offer gave rise to a somewhat curious incident. The Central Committee on the advice of one of their body, a native gentleman, at first declined it, feeling doubtful whether ignorant people might not look on the food with suspicion, as a surreptitious attempt to injure their caste. Fortunately, however, a Provincial Committee heard of this decision and begged that the gift might be received on their account. The Committee, therefore, altered its decision and gratefully accepted the offer, with the result that from all parts of India reports have been received of the value of the food to the weakly and ill. Another gift was 100 cases of Triticine food which was also indented for largely. A third was

Distribution of gifts by Central Committee.

\* On 12th August additional grants were made, amounting to Rs. 1,61,000 (vide Appendix E, page 133), and on 6th September grants of Rs. 1,00,000. On 9th September, the balance was Rs. 51,345-12-4, exclusive of the investment for the maintenance of orphans mentioned on page 12. For particulars of later grants, the second Report should be referred to.

† Now incorporated in Appendix F., page 135.



14 cases of Meaby's biscuits; of the nutritious value of which and their popularity with the natives a Deputy Commissioner in Oudh reported in most glowing terms. A fourth was 100 cases of Swiss milk from the "First Swiss Alpine Milk Exporting Company," which was also an extremely useful contribution, being valuable in feeding very young and emaciated children in the poor-house hospitals. Another gift was a consignment of 20,000 cartridges from the Normal Powder Syndicate, Limited, which were to be sold in India and the proceeds devoted to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Up to date, however, the Committee regret they have not been able to dispose of them\*. The Central Committee have also been the medium† of distributing gifts of clothing received from charitable ladies at home, some of whom, for instance the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, Mrs. Hauser, of 48 Bedford Gardens, Kensington, Mrs. Hope Simpson, of Liverpool, Mrs. Royse, of Newton le-Willows, Mrs. Frizelle, of Singapore, and others‡, organised working parties. Eighty bales§ in all have been received, through the Stores Department of the India Office, and the gifts of clothing have been very highly appreciated. Except, however, in the case of gifts consigned to themselves the Central Committee have left it to the Provincial Committees to make their own purchases of clothes required for the famine-stricken, although in one instance they purchased and sent a quantity of blankets which were urgently required during the cold weather on relief works in the North-Western Provinces.

Miscellaneous  
work of the  
Central  
Committee.

Examination of  
accounts.

Use of Missionary  
Agencies.

Native States,  
Loans.

Provision for  
orphans after the  
famine.

Meetings.

The Central Committee have received many direct applications for personal assistance, but have consistently referred them to the Provincial Committees for disposal. While refraining on principle from interfering with Provincial Committees in the distribution of their funds, the Central Committee have issued detailed instructions on several occasions, pointing out how economy may be secured and the overlapping of Government relief prevented, suggesting the best methods of securing accuracy and uniformity in accounts and returns, and have arranged with Local Governments for an examination on the spot by Government Officers of the accounts of District Committees. These officers' duty is to see that the accounts are kept properly, that the returns of persons relieved are accurate, and that the money has been expended on the declared objects of the fund. Experienced gentlemen have been nominated, who are now travelling round the Districts for the purpose. At their 6th meeting on the 1st February, the Central Committee asked all Provincial Committees to consider the desirability of utilising the services of Missionary and other suitable local agencies, both in the matter of the collection of subscriptions and (more especially) in the distribution of funds placed at their disposal. They decided also that Native States which were suffering from famine were equally eligible with districts in British India for relief from the Fund. A question that gave rise to some discussion was whether loans might be granted from the Fund, as was proposed by one Provincial Committee. The sense of the majority of the Central Committee was against the proposal, which was ultimately withdrawn and the matter dropped. At the instance of the two Provincial Committees concerned, the Central Committee have also arranged with the Governments of the North-West Provinces and Oudh and of the Central Provinces, both of which have kindly accepted the responsibility, that the schemes for maintaining friendless orphans after the famine including the selection and subsidising of orphanages, shall be matured by those Governments which will send estimates to the Central Committee of the sums required. As trusts will have to be created in favour of the Governments through whose officers the relief will be dispensed after the Famine Fund has been wound up, it is desirable in every way that the Governments most concerned should have a voice in the matter from the commencement. The number of orphans is not likely to be large in any other Province.

Up to the end of July the Central Committee held 19½ meetings, or an average of 3 per mensem. There have been 4 more meetings between 1st August and 6th September.

\* See page 111. The cartridges ultimately were sold for Rs. 1,132-13-6.

† Their acknowledgments are due to Mr. E. N. Baker, the Honorary Secretary, Bengal Provincial Branch, who kindly undertook, on the Central Committee's behalf, the distribution of clothes and gifts in kind.

‡ See page 111.

## PART II.

## Provincial Committees.

Provincial Committees have sent to the Central Committee periodical progress reports, at first fortnightly and afterwards monthly, and fortnightly accounts of receipts and expenditure. Reports of their meetings and of the decisions arrived at have also been communicated to the Central Committee. But, mainly owing to the extreme pressure upon the officers who are Chairmen of Committees and on all concerned in the administration of either Government or Charitable Relief, some of the returns have been neither as full nor as punctual as could be desired. Every allowance, however, must be made for the difficulties of the time, and when the strain grows less with the gradual disappearance of the famine, no doubt full information of every kind will be available. Meanwhile it is possible to compile, from the papers received, and from notes and reports which the Vice-Chairman collected on tour and since, an account of the operations that are going on and the numbers of persons being relieved by the Fund. Reference is here suggested to pages 82 and 102 where will be found a list of the distressed districts and a statement of the growth of the intensity of the famine, as indicated by the increasing numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous Government doles. The numbers fluctuated, specially when the spring harvest was being reaped, and the districts named are sometimes inclusive of areas not actually distressed. But they are sufficiently accurate to show the magnitude of the famine.

Expenditure by  
Provincial  
Committees.

It must always be remembered that charitable relief in an Indian famine includes everything outside of Government relief, which is of two kinds. First, manual labour is offered on relief works, such as the excavation of tanks or the construction of roads, for a wage calculated to be just sufficient to maintain the worker in health. Secondly, there is Government gratuitous relief to those who cannot do manual labour, the aged or very young children or the crippled and infirm. This may take the form of cooked meals given to the dependants of the labourers on relief works, or of doles in grain or money to those who cannot leave their villages. But outside of these forms of relief, everything depends upon charity. Government relief, especially when given on an extended scale, requires rigid tests of destitution so as to prevent abuse. In justice to the tax-payer, and also because of the impossibility of differentiating between classes, Government cannot give doles at home to any able-bodied person simply on the ground that he is too respectable to go to the relief works, though there may be in fact thousands of such persons in danger of starvation who would perish rather than accept Government relief of any kind or even go outside their doors to be given food. It is not the function of Government to distribute clothes to the needy, nor can Government while supporting freely several millions of people, undertake to give them comforts or luxuries, even if it keeps up rude hospitals for them. Government can see that no orphan children are left to starve, and will feed them so long as the famine lasts, but afterwards charity must take care of such as have no homes to return to, for there is no poor law in India. The relief of weavers and artisans by employing them at their own trades is also, for economic and other reasons, usually beyond the reach of Government, much more so the relief of non-professional persons who gain their livelihood at home by work, such as spinning, sewing, embroidering. In short, Government aid is restricted within rigid and defined lines outside of which the whole area of misery belongs to charity. Charity supplements the work of the Government and softens its hard business-like features. Charity takes care of those famine-stricken who cannot accept or be reached by Government relief. In particular, charity endeavours to rescue from irretrievable ruin as many respectable deserving persons as possible, whether cultivators, artisans, or well born persons with small incomes, whose means have come completely to an end, either from failure of crops, prolonged high prices, or loss of custom or employment, by starting them afresh in life. The scope for charity of this Register incorrect kind during the present famine has been boundless.

Wide scope for  
charitable relief.

A brief sketch will now be given of the localities where the distress has been faced, as well as of the main branches of expenditure undertaken by each Provincial Committee, as gathered from their reports, and the numbers being relieved in various ways. The reasons for the Central Committee's allocation of Funds will then be better understood.

### BENGAL.

Bengal.

The most seriously affected tract is Behar, the scene of the famine of 1874, and the greater part of Chota Nagpur: many districts of Central Bengal and a small part of Orissa have also been affected, several districts seriously. The population of Behar is very dense, and the struggle for existence in the best of years is difficult. Many petty cultivators subsist on less than an acre of land. Fortunately in 1894-95 there were good crops. But in 1895-96 they were poor, and in 1896-97 the most important crop, the winter rice, in some tracts failed entirely and in others was very short. Good authorities with experience of the famine of 1874 considered that the dearth on the present occasion was even worse. But, partly owing to railways, partly to the prompt and liberal measures of relief adopted by the Bengal Government and partly because the people had not suffered from so long a series of bad seasons as in parts of the North-Western and Central Provinces, and also because the cattle had not perished from lack of fodder, the famine, even in Behar, has fortunately never presented those acute outward signs of distress which have characterised it in some other parts of India. The Provincial Committee has, therefore, been able to provide for Charitable Relief with a much less sum than might otherwise, considering the numbers and poverty of the people, have been expected.

The Provincial Committee have adopted the plan of making allotments to the Commissioners of Divisions, who are left, in consultation with the Collectors and the District Committees, to allocate the funds to local areas.

*Object No. I.\**—In July the number relieved was 44,077 and the total expenditure on this object from the commencement to the end of July has been Rs. 89,628. Clothes and money relief to those in distress and not yet provided with Government relief, are the principal items of expenditure.

*Object No. II.*—The sum of Rs. 10,613 has been spent up to the end of July, the outlay in that month alone being Rs. 4,581 and at the end of the month 5,616 orphans were on the lists. The expenditure has increased very much in June and July, indicating that as the famine became more severe, the orphans who had hitherto been supported by relations or neighbours (themselves in most cases subsisting only a bare margin of subsistence), were gradually losing the protection in whom they depended, and the Fund has taken their place. When the famine subsides, most of the orphans will probably return to those who cared for them originally.

*Object No. III.*—The expenditure up to 31st July was Rs. 4,92,946. With the aid of English Indigo planters and public-spirited Native gentlemen, large numbers of decayed families (who are given the relief secretly) and ladies who cannot appear in public and whose case is described as being desperate, have been relieved everywhere. Cheap grain shops and the giving of employment to poor women and others, in the shape of spinning, cleansing rice and the like, come under this head. The figures for July also were 172,271 persons relieved at a cost of Rs. 1,89,431. Allowing for large numbers of children, still the economy of distribution is evident.

In his speech at the Dalhousie Institute, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, expressed his belief that this object was the most useful of all in Bengal. He said:—

"We can find work comparatively easily for all who are able to wield a mattock or carry a load. But the poor respectable class, described in the programme, who would rather die in their desolate homes than apply for Government relief with its necessarily rigorous enquiries and its stringent labour tests—it is they who will benefit most by the existence of this Fund."

*Object No. IV.*—Up to July 31st the sum of Rs. 2,16,400 only had been spent, mostly on grants for seed, the most distressed parts of Behar obtaining the lion's share.

Miscellaneous expenditure (e.g., office expenditure and items not yet debited to one of the four objects) amounts to Rs. 53,575 up to the end of July; it includes purchase of a good deal of material for the employment of respectable poor, such as cotton for spinning and rice for husking.

\* See Part I, page 2, for the definition of the Four Main Objects of the Fund.

On July 31st the balance of the Provincial Fund, including local contributions, was a little over 15½ lakhs, of which (in round figures) 10 were with District Committees, who have since been distributing it to poor ryots under Object IV. A sum of 4½ lakhs was as yet unallotted by Commissioners, and the Provincial Committee had in hand the remainder.\*

The bulk of the expenditure in Bengal will find a place in the next report. The principal crop is the winter rice, which will not be harvested till December and January, and the peasantry, as they leave the relief-works, will be given sums to buy seed and maintain themselves till that month.

## NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

These two provinces combined have been suffering most severely. In the southern part of the North-Western Provinces, comprising Bundelkhand and the district of Allahabad, south of the River Jumna, serious famine existed throughout 1896, and in parts of Oudh relief works were opened both in 1894 and 1895. In Bundelkhand floods in 1894 and droughts in 1894 and 1895 had already reduced the people to a state of almost absolute ruin when this final famine overtook them. So keen has the distress been in this part of the country that in one tract as many as 4 out of every 5 persons were on Government relief in the spring of this year (1897). And the high prices caused by the famine reduced the respectable poor of the large towns, such as Lucknow and Allahabad, to starvation, from which the fund has relieved them.

*Object No. I.*—In May the average number relieved each fortnight was 61,458, the cost during the month being R37,305-11-2. The small average expenditure is, no doubt, owing to the inclusion of children in the total. The relief in the North-Western Provinces usually takes the form of grants to persons who are unable to go on Government relief works on account of children and other reasons—special grants to persons in receipt of Government relief who need assistance by the grant of clothes or comforts or extra rations for themselves or their children. It also includes patients in hospitals, and children taken over specially by the fund for careful and individual treatment.

In the United Provinces the need of blankets for the relief workers in the cold weather and ordinary clothes to cover their nakedness in the hot has been very greatly felt, as the people are so poor. Up to the beginning of April, two Superintending Engineers alone had spent R27,000 between them on clothing, chiefly for women on relief works, and with such economy that upwards of 40,000 had been clad for the money. But the necessity for clothes only increases as time goes on. The Provincial Committee spent R2,250-7-3 in purchasing 4,000 belts and 2,000 jerseys from the Cawnpore Woollen Mills at a cheap rate. The belts are specially useful for making into little coats for children, who suffer from rain and cold, and a special grant, R1,000, was recently made to a Collector for the purpose of buying more of them†.

For June the accounts show a considerable diminution in numbers, probably owing to smaller purchases of clothing. The average number of persons relieved per fortnight was 6,639 and the total expenditure was R19,819-13-7. No person is counted more than once. During the first half of July 21,824 were relieved at a cost of R13,540-8-9, and in the latter part of the month the numbers were 25,508 at a cost of R9,274-9-9. The outlay up to 31st July was R2,14,383.

*Object No. II.*—The accounts for the second half of May show 1,389 orphans, those for the corresponding half of June only 198, with an expenditure of R727-1-5 and R22-15-8, respectively. The reduction in numbers is due to the Fund being relieved by the Government of expenditure upon orphanages, which till the end of the Famine are Government institutions. In the first fortnight of July the number was 461 and expenditure R454-10-0, in the second half 793, costing R1,203-0-9. Practically the main expenditure under this head will be incurred after the Famine is over, but the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee gave R1,000 to orphanages in Agra, and the Vice-Chairman has

\* As the report was first passing through the Press, the Provincial Committee returned ¼ of a lakh to the Central Committee.

† Compare page 102, Vol. II.

seen the careful arrangements for sick orphans near Allahabad, all at the expense of the fund. When orphans have been returned to their friends, adopted by respectable co-religionists, or made over to an orphanage which undertakes to bring them up gratuitously, the expenditure by the Fund ceases. But as long as the Famine lasts, the Government makes itself responsible for keeping orphans alive like other people, the Fund only assisting with medical comforts, clothes and special attendance. Up to 31st July the expenditure was R7,157.

*Object No. III.*—Upon the relief of '*purdanishins*'\* and the respectable poor, who cannot comply with the Government tests of relief, the expenditure in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh is large, owing mainly to the existence of large towns such as Lucknow, where R12,600 is spent every month on this object. The number relieved in both provinces in the second fortnight of May was 100,255, and in the corresponding fortnight of June 95,750. During the first half of July the number was 90,890 and the expenditure R66,655-2-5, during the second half 95,412, costing R51,667-6-8. The Vice-Chairman was himself a witness of the great care with which the subjects of relief under this head are chosen and the careful and considerate manner in which the payments are made. A great deal also has been done in the way of giving poor women sewing and embroidery. The ordinary allowance *per mensem* is only R1 to R2, with a small allowance for children. Numbers might have perished miserably without this assistance. No person is counted more than once in each return.

The Oudh Committee have now set aside R28,620 a month for expenditure on the first three objects of the Fund. The expenditure in the North-Western Provinces is about R80,000 at present. In the early part of the famine it was about 1½ lakhs monthly for both Provinces, and, up to 31st July, R7,01,902 have been spent altogether. The *Gazette of India* gives the number of persons in the United Provinces relieved by the Fund during the week ending July 24th, as 64,481.†

*Object No. IV.*—The Joint Provincial Committee allotted nearly 31 lakhs of rupees to the very important duty of assisting those ruined by the famine to return to their former states in life. And they, as well as the District Committees, have applied to it such savings as could be effected from grants for other objects, so that the total expenditure will probably exceed even that sum. The lists of the persons to be relieved were made by the village officers and were checked and the money paid by the Collectors and their assistants personally. The greater part of the sum was expended in grants for the purchase of cattle, to replace those sold to buy food, for seed grain, and also for maintaining the cultivators, when they left the relief works, up to harvest time. The bulk of the money was given away between 15th May and 15th July, and payments were made during that time to 303,523 persons, the expenditure being R28,44,332, so that each family received on an average a little under R10. In the second half of July, 11,538 grants were made, amounting to R79,474, and the total outlay on this object has been R30,12,839. Thus, by the aid of the Fund, the number of families restored to prosperity in the two provinces exceeds considerably the whole of the individual population of Edinburgh, counting therein all men, women and children. The Honorary Secretary of the Fund at Allahabad, Mr. J. W. Hose, recently visited some of the villages, and on enquiry of the people who were actually cultivating, ascertained that they had all spent the grants given to them on the exact purposes for which they were given. The percentage of people relieved to the vast numbers who needed relief is small, but the aggregate amount of good done is enormous. In towns also makers of damascened metal fabrics and other tasteful oriental wares have been given employment by the purchase of their wares.

that of Meerut, which receives special protection from irrigation, has not needed relief at all, and it has suffered from a long succession of bad seasons. There are no irrigation works in the Central Provinces, which for the last five years have suffered from failure of crops. In June, 1896, before it was even suspected that 1896-97 would be a famine year, the state of the Province was causing the Chief Commissioner great anxiety, since for three successive years unseasonable weather and blight had injured and, in parts, wholly destroyed the crops, in the fourth, 1894-95, there was a serious drought, and now, in 1896-97, scarcely a district has escaped, the Chattisgarh Division, which had been fortunate up to the present year, and in which famine was scarcely ever heard of, being one of the worst. The Central Committee recognising these facts have made every endeavour to give the Central Provinces as large a grant as possible.

Although the information received from the Provincial Committee has been unusually full and valuable, they have failed hitherto in obtaining from District Committees or from the District Officers who are making the distributions on behalf of the District Committees, statistics of numbers relieved, and the Central Committee have thought it considerate not to press for the figures at present. The visit of the Vice-Chairman to five of the distressed districts, his conference with the officers and his personal inspection of the relief that is being administered from the Fund have brought the Central Committee ample evidence of the care devoted to the active part of the Fund's work. The last grant of 8 lakhs of rupees will be specially valuable in starting in life again those whose land is only fit for sowing at the commencement of the cold weather and which grows the most valuable crops, such as wheat or linseed, the seed grain for which is more expensive than for the summer crops.

*Objects Nos. I and II.*—The Provincial Committee have not yet been able to separate the amounts spent under these two heads, possibly because the Government orphanages are usually in close connection with poor-houses, and extra comforts are given to both at the same time. Subsidies to private orphanages maintained by missionaries and others who have taken in the famine waifs and strays might, however, well have been distinguished. But the officer who will examine the accounts and figures will endeavour to see that this omission is supplied.

Under the two first heads, the expenditure has been, up to the end of June, Rs 1,481, and in July, Rs 15,475. Nearly fifty thousand persons have been given clothes, but funds to purchase them, even after allowing for the supplies sent from England, are still quite inadequate for the needs of the distressed. In the Highlands of the Central Provinces there is a more than usually large proportion of aboriginal hill tribes, a class who delight in a free wild life in the jungles, supporting themselves by rude and scanty cultivation and sometimes by wages for cutting timber, who are accustomed even in ordinary years to depend greatly on jungle fruits and roots, and can endure scarcity up to a certain point better than the people of the plains. They are very unwilling to leave their forest homes, their little settlements are difficult of access, and they often refuse point-blank to come to Government relief works, which are necessarily in most cases at some distance from the hills. When reduced to emaciation they wander aimlessly into the plains for help, and then the organisation of the Fund has been of great assistance in rescuing them, feeding them and inducing them to proceed to the Government poor-houses or relief works.

The number of derelict children in the Central Provinces is very large. In one District alone some hundreds, with the aid of the Fund, are being taken care of in missionary and other orphanages, and it is expected that at the end of the famine provision may have to be made by the Fund for about 2,000, the same number that are at present expected to be left wholly friendless in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

*Object No. III.*—The outlay up to the end of June has been Rs 58,745, and in July Rs 20,208. The Central Provinces is not remarkable for its large towns or the numbers of poor and respectable classes. But under this head comes relief of a kind which has been made wide use of in India, in shapes that vary according to local needs, *viz.*, the sale of grain at special shops to

poor and respectable people at cheap rates. In some parts of India it has been found possible to give people as much as 4½ lb of grain per rupee more than the market price allowed, but at Nagpur the Committee was only able to give about one pound more for a rupee. Yet there was very keen competition for tickets.

*Object No. IV.*—In its report for June, the Provincial Committee states that about 175,000 cultivators, considerably more than the whole population of Venice and about equal to the population of Portsmouth, have been relieved, the expenditure up to the end of July being Rs18,41,705. This gives an average rate rather higher than in the North-Western Provinces, and is due, no doubt to comparatively few cattle having died in the latter Province. In the Central Provinces, the mortality was shocking, ryots having been known to sell their bullocks for eight annas apiece (less than the value of the skin), in order to procure food and because the animals must otherwise die. District Committees in this Province estimated their requirements under this head at Rs51,38,679. The Secretary to the Administration, when the Vice-Chairman was on tour, went very carefully into the matter, and kindly gave him an estimate of 27 lakhs, which the Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Lyall, approved. This estimate which was subsequently adopted by the Provincial Committee, provided seed for about 400,000 acres in the summer and nearly the same area in the winter, supplied 12,000 cultivators with a pair of bullocks and gave 70,000 cultivators food for two months while cultivating. It contemplated relieving generally only 3 to 4 per cent. of occupancy-tenants owning their own lands and 11·50 per cent. of ordinary tenants, the proportion varying in each district according to the intensity of the distress. The District Committees have evidently (though the numbers of really deserving persons are stated to have been rigidly cut down) given smaller grants to a larger number of persons than the Secretary contemplated, for the average grant he proposed was Rs30 per head for seed and food, and where bullocks were needed, the estimated price was Rs20 to Rs30 a pair. Indeed, in one district, it is admitted that the average grant was cut down to Rs10, and that, owing to the crowds of people applying, in some cases grants as low as Rs2 per head were made.

The Committee are reserving about six out of the eight lakhs granted on July 20th to assist cultivators in raising the very important *rabi* or winter crops. Thus about 75 per cent. of the Secretary's recommendations will be carried out. In the majority of cases, the relief has been given in the shape of money, but there is at least one distressed tract in which the absence of corn dealers, and the difficulty of access to it combined, have forced the local committees to buy grain and seed for distribution. Where bullocks have been given, they were specially purchased, and not made over to individuals but to the village-community, to prevent them being seized at any time for individual debt. There is abundant evidence of the great care taken everywhere to select the persons most deserving of relief, and to see that the relief reaches the person intended without any abstraction or deduction.

Relief has also been given largely in the Central Provinces to distressed weavers, metal-workers and other manufacturing castes. In parts of the Central Provinces (and the same may be said of Madras, where the Government itself has organised relief for weavers) not merely the common coarse cloth worn by labourers but excellent high-class fabrics are still made by hand-loom weavers, for which there is a continual demand in the rich cities of the Bombay Presidency. Unfortunately, owing to certain unfavourable conjunctions of the stars, the Brahmin astrologers have pronounced the period from April 1896 to October 1897 an inauspicious time for marriages, so the demand for these cloths for brides' *trousseaux* has ceased, and during the prevalence of the plague people have had too much to do to think of buying new clothes. Thus, with the demand for their fabrics fallen away and the high prices of food owing to the Famine, the weavers have doubly suffered. The same remarks apply more or less to other local manufacturers. Hence advances of material, which are taken back in the shape of cloth, only the labour being paid for, have been a common form of relief, the clothes so manufactured being usually reserved for distribution to relief workers. The receipts under this head in July amounted to no less than Rs20,899.



## BOMBAY.

The Deccan districts of Bombay had suffered from two bad seasons prior to the last most disastrous one. The worst portion is the strip of country furthest away from the coast, where, as in the adjoining part of Madras, rainfall has always been very precarious. This portion again, as in the case of Madras, suffered terribly in the great famine of 1876-77 and relief works had to be opened as late as in 1891-92. The poor hill people in the Western Ghats have also suffered severely.

The Provincial Committee of Bombay adopted the system of placing the money at the disposal of the Collectors of the different districts. They have not succeeded in obtaining from the District Committees the regular reports prescribed by the Central Committee, nor have they submitted periodical reports and figures of their own, like other Provinces. Much detail as to how the money has been spent or the number of persons relieved is not therefore yet available. Some information, however, was collected by the Vice-Chairman on tour, and a set of reports collected by the Provincial Committee some time ago give sufficient material for explaining how the money is being spent.

The Bombay ryot, it may be premised, is, like the cultivator in the Punjab, undoubtedly a man of sturdy fibre who can stand pressure better than the cultivator in most other parts of India. There is a consensus of opinion that in the last twenty years the construction of railways has improved greatly his capacity to withstand famine.\*

Consequently the demands made in Bombay on the Fund for Charitable Relief outside the Government system have been comparatively small, excepting for the respectable poor and weavers and also (this is a very notable exception indeed), for seed and the replacement of plough cattle. The shocking mortality of cattle, owing to want of fodder, amounting in one district to 75 per cent., called for additional grants to Bombay at the distribution of funds, both in August and September.

*Object No. I.*—Clothes have been liberally distributed, and in one district where there was no relief given by Government, the poorest classes were helped by a dole, and stone breakers were protected from the sun. (The Provincial Committee recalled ₹25,000 from that district, as its needs were not very urgent.) The outlay is ₹1,06,536.

*Object No. II.*—There has been little or no expenditure (only ₹1,002) upon orphans.

*Object No. III.*—Details are given of poor and respectable, even aristocratic, families so sorely pinched as to require aid. In Poona city and its environs poor Mahomedan *pardanishins* have received a monthly dole, but the Hindus, the Brahmins and Mahrattas would not accept it. The monthly cost is about ₹400 *per mensem*. In Nasik, Bijapur and other cities many very respectable and poor families have been assisted. The total expenditure is ₹50,588.

*Object No. IV.*—A Municipality was entrusted with ₹5,000 to assist the distressed weavers. Grants have been made to hill-people, whose supplies of forest fruits and roots have come to an end, to support themselves while preparing for the current season's cultivation. Large quantities of fodder have been bought and distributed free to save the remaining cattle. Up to June 15th, 1,163 bullocks had been purchased in one district, which were to be lent out for the summer crop and distributed in the winter. In that district 50 per cent. of the cattle had died, while in the next, Bijapur, the figure was 75 per cent. There the Collector hopes, by the aid of the fund, to enable 80,000 acres to be sown which would otherwise yield nothing and rescue 7,000 cultivators at least by grants of bullocks and seed. The bulk of the fund is being spent on this object, the large balances in three districts being due to reservation for seed-grain in the winter, and partly to the want of grass in some places

\* This may indeed, without fear of contradiction, be said of the ryots of every part of India, not excepting the poor tenants of Bihar, which was once described by Sir Richard Temple as the blackest of black spots on the famine map.



rendering it useless to distribute cattle till August. Outlay up to 31st July R3,13,296.

### MADRAS.

The most distressed area consists of a broad belt of country, including portions of the four Deccan or Ceded Districts, which, like the adjacent portion of Bombay, are peculiarly liable to drought. Ravaged by the great famine of 1876-77, from which they are said not even yet to have wholly recovered, they suffered from famine again in 1891-92 and have never enjoyed a succession of favourable seasons, and along with restriction of cultivation, the failure both of autumn and winter crops in 1896 was, in some places, complete. Serious cattle-mortality has also commenced, and some ryots have been compelled to sell their animals, but on nothing like the scale of the Central Provinces or Bombay. A strip of country along the margin of two districts in the tract on the east coast, known as the Northern Circars, adjoining the south of Orissa, is also suffering, and there is slight distress in parts of the Godavari District. The proportion of poor ryots who pay a very small assessment is singularly large in the Deccan Districts, and there are one or two hill tribes in an unsatisfactory state. Grain has been specially transported up the Godavari river for the relief of the Koyas, a jungle tribe which has suffered severely.

The Provincial Committee of Madras has been very careful of its funds distributing them only as required. But its returns like those of Bombay are defective.

*Object No. I.*—At first gratuitous relief by the Government was very restricted, and the fund relieved a large number of poor in the villages, but these have since been taken over and put on the Government lists. A small expenditure on clothes has been incurred (in one place persons of both sexes, belonging to the Chentu tribe, were found quite naked), and the fund has assisted nursing mothers and children fed at the Government kitchens. The outlay on Objects I and III combined was R88,942, up to 31st July.

*Object No. II.*—No specific expenditure as yet.

*Object No. III.*—Not much information has been reported under this head, and the number of respectable persons relieved in the districts visited by the Vice-Chairman is small. It is understood that in the town of Kurnool there are many persons of this class who are being assisted.

*Object No. IV.*—The Provincial Committee has been vigorously exporting from Madras and other districts on its own account straw and fodder to assist the ryots in preserving their cattle and has incurred an expenditure of R52,942 for this purpose; and grants are now being made, as in other provinces, for seed bullocks, and maintenance of the poorest cultivators till the harvest is ready. The distressed portions are divided into red and black soil, the first of which is cultivated in the summer and the second generally in the winter, so that donations for assistance in the latter tracts will be made later. Figures of persons relieved are not yet available, but up to 31st July, R2,31,920-5-7 had been spent, and a sum of R5,10,000 had been allotted, but was awaiting lists of persons to be relieved, before being paid over to District Committees. Total outlay has been R2,87,695.

### PUNJAB.

The Delhi Division includes 6 districts in the plains. This is the area least protected by irrigation in the Punjab, and it suffered severely from failure of crops both in 1895 and 1896. There are also other tracts in the Lahore and Rawalpindi Districts which are distressed. The Punjab cultivators are sturdy, but the mortality in plough and well cattle for want of fodder has been great, and the high prices and cessation of demand for textile fabrics, owing, as elsewhere, to astrologers stopping Hindu marriages, has caused intense privation amongst shawl weavers, embroiderers and other artificers, as well as great distress amongst the poor in the large towns of Delhi, Lahore, Umballa, Amritsar, etc.

This Provincial Committee also has not yet been able to give statistics of

persons relieved, but from their proceedings the following information can be gathered.

*Object No. I.*—The number on relief works is small, and fund expenditure only R2,757; the principal relief under this head has been the distribution of blankets and clothes.

*Object No. II.*—No report. Expenditure has been R785.

*Object No. III.*—Under this heading come very elaborate systems of relief. Cheap grain shops have been opened in most of the large towns. In Lahore last April some 3,000 persons possessed tickets entitling them to grain 4lbs. in the rupee cheaper than the bazaar rate. At Amritsar in one fortnight 19,000 persons were so relieved. In Lahore (where ladies have done excellent work) and in Umballa, high-caste Mahomedan women are given spinning and sewing for which they are paid. The outlay up to 31st July has been R1,87,328.

*Object No. IV.*—The bulk of the fund is being spent on grants for the purchase of bullocks and seed as elsewhere. The proceedings of the Provincial Committee show that all lists were complete in good time, and precautions had been taken for the distribution to be effected by the heads of Districts and their assistants. The very distressed district of Hissar, where the mortality of cattle was worst, received the largest grant, and the Deputy Commissioner has distributed R2,35,000. The accounts up to 31st July show a total expenditure under this head of R5,72,869. At Amritsar and Delhi the workers in embroidery and lace are assisted by the fund at their trade.

#### BURMA.

As in the centre of the Deccan, so in the heart of Upper Burma, part of Burma, the territories conquered during the Viceroyalty of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, exists a dry zone, the rainfall in which is always precarious. Six years ago the tract suffered from famine, and the whole of one district and the greater parts of two others have on this occasion lost their crops for two years in succession. Emigration has been great and relief works have been carried on, but the people have had to part with their cattle wholesale, and the distress, as described by the local officers, is of an acute type, which has been rendered more severe lately by bad outbreaks of cholera and small-pox.

The famine area being small compared with that of most provinces, the Provincial Committee has been able to send the Central Committee complete accounts of the proceedings of the Districts Committees, as well as periodical provincial accounts, which are very full and interesting, indicating great care in the distribution of the money.

*Object No. I.*—Up to the end of June R6,053-15-0 had been spent and 9,120 persons relieved. Clothes for the naked, which were greatly needed, and samples of which have been sent to the Central Committee in evidence of their cheap and useful character, grants for railway or steamer tickets to assist the poor to go to Mandalay for work, and donations from R2 to R12 per family for subsistence, are the principal objects of the expenditure. Most of the gifts last named would probably come more suitably under Object III, including the relief of persons of good family connected with the expelled dynasty. Total outlay up to 31st July is R7,211.

*Object No. II.*—No expenditure is recorded.

*Object No. III.*—Only a small sum of R375 is reported.

*Object No. IV.*—The outlay under this head has almost all been expended on grants for seed to raise the first crop, which was first described to be flourishing, though later reports are discouraging.\* Although many bullocks had been parted with, the funds were insufficient for the purchase of fresh animals. In this part of Burma, the village communities live together in patriarchal fashion, all on neighbourly terms, with the headman as their leader; so cases have occurred of those selected for grants insisting upon dividing the money with all their neighbours on the ground that all were equally distressed, that the money would go further, and that, as all would help one another with whatever each one possessed, whether with seed-grain or by the loan of bullocks

\* On this account an extra grant of R40,000 was made to Burma on September 6th.

amongst themselves, it was only fair that all families should participate alike in the bounty. Up to the end of June 19,991 families had been relieved, at a cost of Rs 1,20,294-10-0, the outlay up to 31st July being Rs 1,47,514. The balance will be spent mainly on seed for the later crop, and probably upon cattle.

### BERAR.

The people of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts are, as a rule, singularly well-off. The soil is fertile, the rates of assessment low, and trade brisk. The native mercantile community is rich and very charitable, and the exports of cotton and grain are usually large. But the rains failed in August, giving a crop 75 per cent. below the normal in some parts, and in spite of a fall of rain in November the winter cultivation was much contracted, the export of grain was stimulated and prices rose abnormally high, while wages of labour fell at the same time, owing to the cultivators having to curtail their expenses. Simultaneously immigrants from neighbouring distressed tracts, who often come for the spring harvest, arrived in unusually large numbers, some of whom this year came from places 200 miles away, trusting to obtain work and cheap grain. Immigrants from the Central Provinces and Bombay have been the most numerous, but some are to be found even from the North-Western Provinces. Thus the number of the poor who are distressed has been exceptionally high. Private charity has been dispensed on an unprecedentedly liberal scale, but assistance from the Fund was required and has been given to supplement it. One of the worst tracts is the hilly region called Melghat where the jungle tribes have suffered from crop failure for two years in succession, and parts of the Akola and Buldana districts are also very distressed.

From the accounts of the Provincial Committee, the following information is to be obtained for the four months ending July 31st. Prior to March everything was done by local charity.

*Object No. I.*—The average number relieved monthly has been 28,556 persons at a total cost of Rs 34,139. Large numbers of charitable poor-houses have been opened, to which liberal contributions in kind are sometimes given.

*Object No. II.*—The expenditure upon orphans has been small, only Rs 1,601 in all, though the monthly average of waifs and strays assisted is stated to be 1,246.

*Object No. III.*—The average number of persons receiving doles monthly has been 9,538, at a cost of Rs 26,965.

*Object No. IV.*—The statistics of persons relieved are defective, but Rs 40,174 have been expended. Most of this has been devoted to the Melghat, regarding which the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, writes :—

“The Melghat money has been the greatest possible boon. I do not know what we should have done without it, and I think that the Committee may justly claim to have saved thousands of lives in the Melghat and help to restore families in hundreds to their former positions as agriculturists by giving seed-grain and cattle. B. the Forest Officer writes that the distress there is still (7th September) excessive, but the people everywhere say that we have saved them from death and starvation, and I really believe we have.”

### CENTRAL INDIA.

The two most distressed areas, and they rank in the first class of acute distress, are the groups of states known as the Baghelkhand and Bundelkhand Agencies, all belonging to Native Chiefs, some of them very petty and poor. They adjoin the worst parts of the North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces and have suffered from the same causes. Parts of the Gwalior territory belonging to His Highness Scindia are also seriously affected.

The Maharajahs of Gwalior and Rewah have carried out a system of State relief on the principles followed in British territory, and so also under the guidance of the Political Agents, have the smaller states according to their means. Of the sum of Rs 3,25,000 allotted by the Fund, the Provincial Committee, under the guidance of the Agent to the Governor-General, has allotted Rs 2,13,000 to Baghelkhand and Rs 1,12,000 to Bundelkhand. The recent grant has all been

remitted to the first-named province under the Agent to the Governor-General's instructions.

The accounts rendered show that up to the 30th of June Rs. 5,541 had been spent in Baghelkhand on Objects I and III, and Rs. 1,13,003 on Object IV. In May, under Object I, diet was being given to 20 persons daily, clothes had been given to 376 persons, and the daily number of persons on relief under Object III was 1,377. In June the number under Object III had decreased to 1,075 persons, costing Rs. 3,084 monthly. In July the numbers rose to 2,821. Under Object IV seed was being given, grants for bullocks not being required, and a small sum of about Rs. 2 per head for subsistence while cultivating. The Political Agent did not expect that his estimate, which came to Rs. 2,44,000 (towards which he has now received Rs. 2,13,000), would, even if granted in full, enable more than half the distressed ryots' lands to be cultivated. The number actually relieved under this object has not yet been reported.

In Bundelkhand under Object I, the Political Agent and his assistants have personally distributed Rs. 1 a head to emaciated persons on the relief-works, so as to enable them to add to their ration, and also distributed clothes. Under Object III, a few respectable persons whose permanent allowances from jaghirs have been stopped owing to hard times, have been assisted. Under Object IV, the Political Agent and other officers gave tickets to the ryots whom they found on relief-works, entitling them to a certain sum of money from the village banker, who had orders to pay it on the rains falling. This enables the family to obtain seed-grain and live during the season of cultivation. With the aid of one of the chiefs, 350 bullocks were given to persons who had sold or lost their animals; and the Political Agent has personally distributed some cattle in other places. The weavers, who were in a deplorable condition, have been helped with implements and stock-in-trade, and clothes have been purchased from them for distribution to those in rags. Up to the end of July 20,999 cultivators had received grants for seed at a cost of Rs. 86,646, and nearly 13,000 persons had been aided under object I, as well as a few orphans and respectable persons, the total expenditure up to the 31st July having been Rs. 1,01,165.

A request from the Political Agent, Gwalior, for a grant came very late, and the Provincial Committee have not apparently been able to comply with it. The Bhopal State, however, in June, appears in the fund accounts, with local subscriptions of Rs. 2,206, which increased to Rs. 6,437 in July, and a grant was made by the Provincial Committee of Rs. 1,298. The expenditure so far has been small, and up to July 31st only 101 persons had been relieved at the Fund's expense.

Appendix F shows the combined expenditure in all the Agencies.

#### RAJPUTANA. ✓

In the extensive states comprised in this area, the relief organised by the different rulers has proved generally sufficient, and the pressure on the people generally does not seem to be so severe as in Central India.

Rajputana.

The Agent to the Governor-General, however, applied for aid, and was granted a sum of Rs. 25,000, of which Rs. 19,000 were allotted to Jesalmir and Rs. 6,000 to Tonk. Of the former sum, Rs. 10,000 was remitted back to the Agent to the Governor-General, who allotted Rs. 4,000 more to Tonk. An application from the Political Agent, Bhurtpore, did not receive the support of the Agent to the Governor-General. Dholpur and Bikanir also suffered.

In Jesalmir it was found that local subscriptions sufficed for the first three objects, and Rs. 9,000 would suffice for Object IV.

In Tonk, under Object I, additional comforts in the shape of 4 annas a head is being given monthly to those who are on gratuitous relief, thus supplementing slightly the subsistence ration. Clothing is also being purchased for the infirm, aged and cripples. The total expenditure on this is estimated at Rs. 3,650.

Up to the end of June, 2,218 persons had been clothed at the cost of Rs. 1,278-4-1 (British). From 16th May to 30th June 2,102 persons were receiving a dole, at a cost of Rs. 255-7-0\* a fortnight. In July the average number

\* These and the following figures are in Native Currency.

relieved under Object I every fortnight was 3,334, at a cost of R2,023-0-6, and R376-12-4 were expended in the relief of 479 orphans.

### BALUCHISTAN.

A grant of R20,000 has only recently (July 20th) been made to the Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan to enable him to relieve the sufferings of graziers, shepherds, and cultivators, the losses amongst whose herds and plough-cattle during the past two years have been very severe owing to continued drought in the sterile hills of Baluchistan. It is not possible as yet to give any account of the manner in which it is being distributed.

Appendix F \* shows the receipts and expenditure of all Provincial Committees from the commencement up to 31st July 1897.

\* Not reprinted. Figures up to 31st October, will be found in Appendix G of the Second Report, pages 136, 137.

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## PART III.

## District and Local Committees.

It must not be forgotten that before an appeal was made to England, Europe and the Colonies for assistance to the famine-stricken, Committees had been formed already in many large towns of India, which collected subscriptions to relieve the distress. Bombay, for instance, held a meeting under the presidency of His Excellency Lord Sandhurst on 22nd December 1896, and raised a provincial subscription exceeding two lakhs of rupees. Lucknow held a meeting on 15th October 1896, and collected about ₹36,000. At Allahabad a public meeting was held on 18th November 1896, at which ₹20,131 were subscribed in the room, and similar movements were initiated in many of the distressed parts as soon as the certainty of acute suffering was realised. In some towns, such as Jubbulpur and Sangor in the Central Provinces, a poor-house was organised two or three years before 1897. An account describing one of these movements, which may be truly called the beginnings of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, into which they were afterwards merged, will be found at page 29. The action taken indicates that, just as the Government were prepared for the famine, so private charity had organised itself in many places and was ready for the donations which it has had since to deal with, and a full account of these provincial and local movements will find a place in the Committee's next report. The brief summaries, too, which have already been given in Parts I and II, afford but little idea of the detailed way in which charitable relief is being actually distributed to the sufferers. Like the Central Committee itself, Provincial Committees do little more than allocate money to District Committees, although from their local knowledge they can and do generally exercise a somewhat strict control over the work that is done. It is, however, upon the District Committees, and upon Local Committees subordinate to them, that the subscribers have to depend for the money being fairly and judiciously distributed to those individuals who need it most. A selection therefore from reports that have reached the Central Committee will now be given, to illustrate—

- (a) the various detailed forms which the relief has taken ;
- (b) the system under which individual objects of relief are selected, and
- (c) the precautions adopted to secure that the relief reaches the right persons.

Those who are interested in the work of the Fund will prefer that the writers should tell their story in their own words. One of the principal objects of the Vice-Chairman's tour was to enquire into the above three matters, and he has much satisfaction in stating that nothing could exceed the interest and care which he found shown everywhere by those on whom the responsibility of selection and distribution was imposed. The fact that, with scarcely an exception, the Chairmen of District and Local Committees are the Magistrates of the District, is, in itself, a great guarantee against abuse, and the circumstance that the distress is everywhere much greater than the charitable funds for relieving it has acted as a strong incentive to economy. But the Government officials are so busy themselves that, in towns at least, they have had always to rely much on the help of non-official gentlemen, such as merchants and lawyers, or on officials other than those connected with the famine, such as Judges and Sub-Judges, in making lists of respectable persons to whom house-to-house relief should be given, especially to those respectable persons whose females do not appear in public. The assistance received in this way from private native gentlemen of high standing has everywhere been invaluable, and the manner in which professional men have devoted hours of their valuable time looking after the fund's affairs and administering relief is worthy of very high praise. Retired English officials have also, in some places, rendered excellent service, and so have many missionaries and ladies. It would be too much to say that no instances have been found of persons being given relief improperly, or even of malversation, but in the rare cases where this has occurred, discovery has followed immediately, and the irregularity has been at once stopped. The

Official heads of districts, usually Chairmen.

Great part taken by private gentlemen.

Vice-Chairman desires to record it as his opinion that on the whole, in the administration of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, there has been very little abuse or malversation.

To give a complete account of all the varying forms of charity during the Famine is impossible, and space allows only a brief selection from the numerous reports about them. The Committee owe a debt of gratitude to those who have, in the midst of pressing work and anxieties, found time to supply them with information, and they hope that subscribers will find in the extracts which follow (which the Committee would gladly have multiplied) ample evidence that the Fund has been, and is being judiciously spent.

These extracts will be prefaced by an abstract of work done in one single district (Banda, in the North-Western Provinces) between March and June, so as to give an idea of the manner in which District Committees expend the Fund:—

Specimen abstract  
of work done in  
one district in 4  
months.

*Object No. I.*

	Persons.	Cost. R
Persons clothed (including a few to whom clothes received from England were given)	4,067	3,154
Children in poor-houses who were supplied with milk (daily average)	1,448	3,336
Other persons supplied with comforts in poor-houses (daily average)	1,319	
Persons on Government relief assisted with doles	30,100	37,913

*Object No. III.*

Respectable poor supplied with doles for the purchase of food (monthly average)	3,234	20,138
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*Object No. IV.*

Artizans and others assisted to buy materials for their trade	1,056	9,321
Poor assisted to rebuild their houses which had been destroyed by fire	156	1,118
Cultivators without means or credit assisted to buy cattle, seed grain, and with subsistence for the cultivators' family and cattle	27,143	3,30,605
Other persons to make a fresh start	258	1,661
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68,781</b>	<b>4,07,246</b>

Charitable poor-houses.

It will be convenient, however, to take the four objects of the Government of India, and illustrate the modes of relief under each.

**Object No. I.**

*Supplementing the Government Relief.*

The principal forms of relief under this head may be classified as follows:—

- (a) The maintenance of Charitable poor-houses and kitchens for the relief of poor and distressed wanderers.
- (b) The distribution of small comforts, such as milk and vegetables, extra articles of diet, or meals, to persons on Government relief works or in Government poor-houses.
- (c) Money grants to supplement the Government wage on relief works or the gratuitous allowance paid by Government in villages.
- (d) Blankets and clothes.

(a) *Poor-houses and kitchens.*—During famine these are Government institutions. Where an alms-house exists, or charity has of its own accord started one, sometimes the Government and the charitable institution continue side by side, sometimes they are amalgamated, and are then entrusted to Fund Committees to manage.

The following is an account furnished by the Honorary Secretary of the Central Provinces Committee of the Nagpur Poor-house, which was for some time maintained by charity and afterwards taken over by the Government:—

About the end of September, 1896, there commenced to flock to the city of Nagpur some strange people—men, women and children—all in a half-starved condition and showing unmistakable signs of having gone through great privations. Asked whence they came, the almost invariable reply was "Jhadi," the local name for that part of the old Mahratta kingdom now known as the Balaghat and Bhandara Districts. Their unusual appearance at Nagpur was explained by the almost complete failure of the September rains, and the rice, which is the principal crop in their country, had withered up and failed. The people there are either agriculturists or field labourers, and the failure of the crop meant the loss of their only means of livelihood. Unfortunately, there was no employment to be had at Nagpur, and they moved aimlessly about the town, begging from door to door. Miserable creatures a great many of them were, clothed in rags and reduced almost to skin and bone. One could at once see that they were not used to begging, and that it was hunger, and hunger alone, that had forced them to do so.

A Committee was formed, and a public kitchen (*Anna Chhatra*) was opened at a well-known local temple (*Sangameshwara*) and a commencement made by distributing there cooked food to all comers, irrespective of caste or creed. The cooking was done by paid Brahmins, but everything else was done by the members themselves and their friends. The sight was one to move the hardest heart. There were men, women and children in all stages of starvation; and in the case of some it was clear that relief had come too late. The stories they told of their sufferings as they left their villages where they had lived and laboured from generation to generation were full of pathos, and showed how much these simple, honest people could suffer in their own silent, uncomplaining way. The first day the number did not exceed two hundred, but the numbers rapidly increased, and so did the cost of the institution and the strain on those who worked it. By the middle of October the daily number had risen to about a thousand, and a more regularly constituted organization became necessary. Mr. A. H. L. Fraser, Commissioner of the Nagpur Division, then called a semi-public meeting, to start a relief fund and constitute a Committee to administer it. About Rs14,000 were subscribed on the spot, the list being headed by a subscription of four thousand rupees payable in eight monthly instalments by the manager of "The Empress Mills." It was arranged to start a regular poor-house to house and feed the starving people. But it was felt that unless the opening of the poor-house was accompanied by relief works, the place would be swamped. On the other hand, it would be cruel to turn out even able-bodied persons unless they were provided with work. Accordingly, about the first week of November, the Deputy Commissioner opened relief works. About 3,000 people cheerfully flocked to them, and a month afterwards regular relief camps under the Public Works Department were opened in the districts.

The subscribers to the Poor Relief Fund appointed a Committee of management, and the Commissioner kindly placed at their disposal a Government officer of the rank of Tahsildar and a Hospital Assistant to manage the poor-house and look after the sick. At one end of the town there was an old Sarai or travellers' inn built under the Bhonsla Government, and it was made the centre of operations. Round about it were run up lightly-built sheds for housing the inmates, the Sarai itself being utilized for the office of the Superintendent, for storing the grain, for cooking the food, and part for Hospital purposes. The sheds were divided into wards, people of the same caste being, as far as practicable, lodged in the same ward. For lepers separate quarters were provided. Arrangements were made for a supply of pure water from the Nagpur water-works. The cooks engaged were Brahmins, so as to meet all caste prejudices. Excepting these cooks and about half a dozen others, the servants, numbering nearly 75, were all selected from among the inmates themselves. They have done excellent service, and have more than repaid the food they got and the small cash allowance and occasional gifts of clothing they received.

The inmates were fed twice a day, the meal in the afternoon being full and substantial. The sick were cared for by the Hospital Assistant, and there was always an ample supply of medical comforts for them. More serious cases were sent to the Mayo Hospital. Among the inmates were a considerable number of Muhammadan weavers. Being unaccustomed to stone-breaking, a weaving yard was opened in the poor-house and the men were engaged in cloth making. The work they turned out has more than repaid the expenses incurred. The cloth is still in stock and will be handed over to the District Committee, Nagpur, for distribution. Others who were too weak to be sent to relief camps, but who could do light work, were given rope-making, earthen-work and light stone-breaking. Dhotees,\* Saris† and Chaddars‡ of the value of Rs739 have been distributed from time to time to those most in need of them. The task of selection proved extremely difficult. Almost all were very scantily covered, and it was painful to refuse

\* A man's cloth.

† A woman's dress.

‡ A sheet wound round the body.



their piteous appeals for clothing, but, funds being limited, only those who were almost naked could be relieved.

Up to the 19th of November no register of persons was kept, but the number relieved up to that date could not be less than 15,000. In December 1896, 7,477 men, 5,222 women and 8,120 children were relieved, and in March the numbers grew to 7,077 men, 7,899 women and 18,339 children, including orphans. Up to the 31st March, upwards of over a lakh of people were relieved during the time the poor-house was supported entirely by private charity. From 1st April it was handed over to Government. The District Committee, Nagpur, continues to give the inmates extra comforts as contemplated by the first of the four objects of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The sum of ₹10,882-11-5 was raised, out of which ₹10,541-11-11 have been spent, leaving a balance in hand of ₹340-15-6. This sum, together with monthly subscriptions due in the future have, with the consent of the subscribers, been incorporated with the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund and handed over to the District Committee, Nagpur.

Some incidents may be noted. Generally new comers would drop in during the evening. Families would be found travelling together, the father carrying on his head in a basket a child old enough, but too weak to walk, the mother with a suckling baby vainly trying to obtain its natural nutriment, and two or three children carrying bundles of rags and a few earthen pots, representing all the belongings of the family. Sometimes there would be the old mother walking with difficulty, supported by one of her grandchildren. They would sit outside the gate patiently waiting their turn to be examined. Asked whence they came, and why they came, they would name some severely stricken village and tell a sad tale of sufferings brought about by a succession of bad harvests in their part of the country. Many were once in easy circumstances, cultivating their own holdings, and owning, perhaps, their own cattle. Repeated failure of crops had, however, made their lands more a burden than a profit to them, and at last they had to leave their village and their lands, having lost everything, including their credit with their Mahajans.\* To seek relief at a public poor-house was to such men most painful. Whether fit to go to the relief camps or not, they would be admitted and given their food for the evening, for almost invariably they would be found to have been without food, either partially or completely, for days together. Those who were absolutely without clothes would be given a dhoti or a sari, as the case might be. The ravenous way they would fall to eating as soon as food was placed before them is almost incredible. Sometimes people would come crawling with difficulty and would fall down faint and ill at the gate. These would be taken up, carried to the Hospital and cared for. Despite every care many such would die. Often they would arrive after the whole stock of food had been distributed. The hope that they would find relief at the poor-house which had kept up their failing strength would then be gone and they would sink down, sick and exhausted, and sometimes die after a short stay at the Hospital. In cooking large quantities of rice a portion is often burnt. These burnt cakes were generally given to the cattle, but the people would fight for them and get hold of them and eat them. They would beg for this stuff with tears in their eyes.

Sometimes children would arrive who had lost their parents or whose parents had abandoned them or had become separated from them while travelling in search of employment or food. These were admitted at once and clothed and fed. Many mothers lost their children while in the poor-house. They would then become disconsolate and leave the place, although they knew they were going away with the chance of being starved to death. No amount of persuasion would induce them to stay. One mother and her two children, all of them ill, were sent to the Mayo Hospital to be properly taken care of. One of the children died, and the next day the mother and the surviving child were found missing from the ward. The day after, early in the morning, the mother was found outside the poor-house, which is about three miles from the Mayo Hospital, lying on the ground almost unconscious with the child by her side. It, too, was dead. She had crawled all the day from the Hospital to the poor-house with her sick child to be out of the place where she had lost the first one. Death soon after put an end to all her troubles.

Private poor-houses of the kind have been founded also at Jubbulpur, Saugor, Bhandara, and at other places in the Central Provinces. In Berar they are very numerous and are still supported privately. At Bijapur, in the Bombay Presidency, the Municipality was found maintaining a small poor-house. But as a rule the majority in course of time become merged in the Government institutions, thus setting free the money of the Fund for other and more pressing needs.

The use made of existing alms-houses may be illustrated by an account of a visit to the King's poor-house at Lucknow :—

The King's poor-house is an institution with an endowment of about ₹1,100 a month, made by a former King of Oudh. It has quite the air of a quiet English alms-house, with a large quadrangle and a fountain in the middle. Ordinarily the number of inmates, all

\* Money-lenders.

men and women of a respectable class who have suffered privation, is a little over 200. Outside relief is also given and a leper asylum maintained from the endowment. Now the Deputy Commissioner has drafted into the house about 220 of the better class from the Government poor-house. The food which we saw being prepared, was excellent. On three Sundays in the month the inmates receive an additional luxury in the shape of vegetables, and on one Sunday, or 12 times a year, a meat ration. An annexure contains quarters for *Parasādhān* ladies, and Hakim Karir Husan, who accompanied us and who also has done excellent work in distributing alms, told us that amongst them were the daughters of one of the courtiers of the last King, whose father was a very wealthy man (keeping a stud of 100 horses) but who lost everything with the downfall of the Court. The Charitable Fund now allows Rs 50 to the King's poor-house for the extra work it does.

Mr. Hesse, the Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee, recently visited (on 22nd July) some children's kitchens kept up by the Fund, and gives the following account in a private letter:—

Children's  
kitchens.

In rural places the wild ignorance and prejudices of the people are still so timidity and singular delusions of the poor. rife that in spite of the kindness of the officials and the extra comforts given by the Fund, poor-houses and kitchens, whether maintained by the Government or by charity, were in most places very unpopular at the commencement. In the Bijnor District, when children's kitchens were started, out of 3,000 infants only 3 would attend at first for fear they were going to be poisoned, the reason being that in the great famine of 1876-77 many children did die, being so emaciated to commence with that the good food killed them. And at Garwi, near Kanwi, in Bundellkhand, where the children's feeding-place was fenced in and roofed (partly for protection and partly to prevent the children running off to the relief works and drawing the money-dole given to the elder children who do not go to the kitchens), the infants all absented themselves, the rumour having spread that one day they were all going to be transported, *velens volens*, to Mauritius, where the Government wanted colonists.

A report by Mr. Buldeo Narain Singh on the Azimgarh poor-house shows how timid and credulous poor natives still are in many parts of the country:—

The chief characteristic of these paupers as noticed by me in my ward was an extreme dislike for the poor house in the beginning. They would rather starve and die of the pangs of hunger at their home than go to an institution of the kind. Strange rumours were first for a time amongst the people about these poor-houses and gratuitous reliefs, to the effect (1) that a certain railway bridge was under construction in the river Gogra and that the Government was feeding them only to make them fat and then to send them to the spot to be buried under water for the propitiation of the goddess of the river; (2) that those who get gratuitous relief were being maintained for the purpose of extracting oil from their bodies by pressing them in an oil-machine. I have been informed that zamindars and the headman of villages had very great difficulties in inducing these stupid beings to accept the cash amount meant for them. These foolish rumours did not, however, take long to subside.

And an Assistant Collector in the Lalitpur Division of the Saugor District writes:—

When first the village relief lists were prepared, the Sahariyas of this sub-division, who are a jungle tribe with a strong pre-Aryan strain, circulated the rumour amongst themselves that Government wished to get the names of all useless members of the community, and that after feeding them for a time to get them thoroughly fit for the journey, they

would transport them across the "*kalapani*"\* to some distant land and there leave them. These rumours were never seriously entertained by the Sahariyas of villages adjoining big game jungles who knew that no district officer could possibly consider them, his best beaters, and indispensable when a tiger is about, useless members of the community. But in some villages far away from the usual haunts of sport the idea became strongly established. The Sahariyas of Lagon, a village in the Talbehat Pargana, left the village *en masse* on the patwari writing down the names of some of their number on the village-relief list, and only returned after being re-assured by a Deputy Collector; and at a recent visit to the village of Satarwans, on enquiring after the Sahariyas, I found that in this village they still objected to be written up in the Section 54 list.†

And instances of this terror might be multiplied. At Fatehabad, in the Hissar District of the Punjab, the poor-house was first placed in an unused portion of the Dispensary, so the rumour spread that it was a lethal chamber where the people were to be poisoned, and at Bhiwani in the same District the Mauritius story was fully in vogue. Further curious instances of the rumours which these timid people believe will be found lower down (*vide* pages 33, 50, 58), but the fact that they are ultimately driven to the poor-houses proves the extremity of their need.

Troublesome  
paupers.

Town-bred paupers in poor-houses are at times very troublesome. A Native Officer complains:—

People come to the poor-house calling us their parents, and saying that they would ever remain there. But after a few days they begin crying, asking us to let them go away. They make every sort of excuse: some say that they have lost their relatives; some that their houses have been destroyed by fire, and some say that their children are left behind with no one to look after them, and they ask us to let them go away. But when they are allowed to do so, they again return to the poor-house, asking to be re-admitted. Some of them are brought to the poor-house through the Police; they utter every sort of humbug at the time of admission. They do not mention their names when required to do so; and as they give false names, they do not remember the same at the time of roll call. They would not take the tickets, and if they do, they would lose them. Women generally do not mention their husbands' names. When their names have been registered, they make lots of excuses to go away, and some of them try to escape stealthily. Some try to put the poor-house on fire in order to escape. Very many destroy their blankets, and do not eat anything. Many of them enter into the poor-house for the purpose of stealing something, and instruct their people to hide themselves near the Jumna and wait to receive anything they may throw out. Many of the poor have been found doing this.

Though everything is given to the poor in accordance with the rules, they say that the thin breads supplied to them do not relieve them of their hunger. They complain that the breads are made of inferior flour and half of it is chaff. Some say that they have never seen or eaten curry with *ghee*. Some of the poor make their room very filthy, and when asked they do not confess having done so. They take delight in doing anything which they are told not to do. Some of the poor are well behaved, and do everything as directed; they take care of their clothes, and pray for Government.

Comforts given in  
Government poor-  
houses.

(b) In Government poor-houses usually only one substantial meal a day is given, carefully prepared according to the Famine Codes, under the advice of medical officers, consisting of bread, and soup prepared with *dall* (pulse) and other condiments. This has been found sufficient to support life, and persons even increase in weight upon it, but the Charity Fund generally supplements it by a light additional meal, the nature of which varies almost everywhere. Frequently it consists of rice-congee or gruel. Sometimes it is simply an additional half-ration of the same materials as are given by Government, or a dish of egg-plant or onions, or whatever vegetable is locally thought most nutritious. Milk for the emaciated and for the children is given freely, except where the cattle have perished to such an extent that milk has become a rare and expensive luxury. In one place emaciated children were found being restored to life with the aid of Bovril, which theoretically is absolutely inadmissible to a Hindu, but being looked on as "English medicine" was taken freely, without any objection from Hindu gentlemen, even though its constituents were known.

Patent Foods.

Of all the medical comforts that have been administered, those mentioned above on pages 13 and 14 have been most popular all over India. The following report by the Provincial Committee at Nagpur, describing the Raipur District Committee's work, may serve as an illustration:—

Among the additional comforts, special mention is made of Mellin's Food, Triticine Food and Swiss Milk, received from the Central Committee. These are largely being

\* Black water, i.e., the sea.

† A list of those to be placed on Government village relief.

availed of by the officers in charge of poor-houses, and with most beneficial results. In most of the cases, especially where Mellin's Food has been used, the change, after a few weeks, in the appearance of the children using it, is said to have been marvellous. From walking skeletons they became again the plump and healthy children they once were. Outside the poor-houses, however, it is pointed out that there is a prejudice against the use of specially prepared foods; and one missionary lady has been much exercised in her mind owing to the unexpected result of her using them for the children under her charge. They all left *en masse* after the first day's application, and rumours were spread abroad that she was giving them poison in the shape of medicine in order to save herself the trouble of bringing them up. One conspicuous feature in the local relief works is said to be the swinging cradles full of babies, all of whom are being provided with wholesome milk and attendants to swing them, while their mothers are at work. This is indeed giving extra comforts in a most useful manner. *Crèches.*

And the Deputy Commissioner of Hardoi in Oudh writes as follows of Meaby's biscuits :—

The success attending their distribution has been so great that I think it right to tender my thanks through you to the donors. The biscuits are greedily eaten by children of all castes and have been of the greatest use in affording them from time to time an extra meal. There are a large number of children in the poor-houses and on relief works to whom this additional food has been a great boon. A rumour arose in one part of the district that a 'Wilayati roti' (English bread) was given on the relief works which was so sustaining that a meal of it prevented hunger for three days. The 'Wilayati roti' was Meaby's biscuits.

If you have any more of the biscuits, I should be very glad of a further supply.

Other comforts reported to the Central Committee as having been given from the Charitable Fund (and even that is almost a necessary of life sometimes) have been the gift of tobacco to the aged, which is dispensed in Bengal and in the Punjab, and lime-juice to invalids.

(c) Money grants to supplement the Government wages or gratuitous allowance are only made in special cases. Care, in fact, has been taken to avoid this, so as to prevent the Government and charitable schemes of relief overlapping. Help of the kind to persons on Government relief, however, is found from time to time most useful by the Government officers themselves. In one of the most acutely distressed districts of Bundelkhand a pice (one-quarter of an anna) was given from the Fund for two months to all on Government gratuitous relief, to help them to regain their strength. In most places, the Fund officials, if they find persons who for some reason or other, absence from the village or the like, have been omitted from the Government list, relieve them from the Fund, which is sometimes recouped by the Government. In other places the Fund is used to relieve the children of people who will not work, and whose children in consequence are suffering. And most officers have had a small advance of cash from the Fund with which to relieve piteous cases met with in the course of their travels, where unfortunate people, either from perverseness, stupidity, or sheer ignorance, are found wandering about, and suffering from hunger. Such people receive enough for a meal and are sent onwards to a poor-house or relief work. In this way the Fund has been found invaluable. And officers themselves occasionally give small grants of money to people actually engaged on State relief works when they show marked signs of privation. Supplementing the Government wage or dole.

An Assistant Collector in the North-Western Provinces states :—

The Object (I) money, given in sums of 4 annas to 1 rupee, has inspired far more active demonstrations of gratitude than the Object IV money, though of course its effect has been but transient. Object I money has been distributed only in cases of acute distress and usually to enable the recipient to avail himself of Government measures for relief. Instances of its distribution are as follows : "Four annas to give a wanderer a good meal and enable him to reach a relief work. One rupee to provide extra comforts for a sick recipient of the village relief dole. Three to four rupees to save *purdahnishin* women from the hardship of a relief work, or the fancied disgrace of the daily village-relief dole."

(d) The boon which the famine-stricken owe to the Fund in grants of clothes and blankets to the naked ranks high amongst the most popular, and the need of more clothing is pressing. The Jubbalpur Committee (quoted by the Provincial Committee of the Central Provinces in their report for April) states :— Clothes and blankets.

The great demand of the Circle Relief Officers is clothing. The poor starving people who flock to work centres are, as a rule, nearly naked, or if they have a rag, it is



back heading the procession of newly clad people. When they went away he took up his position again. He was full of vivid approval of the whole procedure. Mr. Hall called him and asked him who he was and he said he had a mother on the works who was ill. His father died a month or two ago. His little sister also died. His gang had not yet received any clothes, but will do so at the next distribution. Mr. Sutherland gave him a waist cloth and a jacket that were left. When he put them on he shrieked with delight and ran off to his mother's hut. Thus ended that day's distribution.

From other provinces come similar accounts, but the above must suffice. In Madras only, where the distress is of a very mild type, the Chairman of the Provincial Committee states that clothes are not needed, and that grants of them are liable to abuse. Nor are they needed in Bengal or the Punjab. But the Central Committee earnestly trust that the supply of clothes from home for other provinces will continue. Very large sums have indeed been spent from the Fund in the purchase of native clothing, but when it is a question between starting a family in life once more, with bullocks, seed or money, and the clothing of fifteen or twenty wretched paupers of the labouring class, English officers may be pardoned for the choice made between two evils, and their preference for expending the Charitable Fund so as to secure a permanent, rather than a transient, benefit. But the need for additional clothing is great, and will last for months after the famine is officially declared at an end. Mr. Hose, as late as the 21st July, after visiting a relief work near Allahabad, writes as follows:—

Need of more clothes.

Among the women on the relief work there were very many, and in those on village relief there were a few, who are in absolute rags. I will enquire if the local funds for clothing have run out, and see if we can spare some more. A great deal has been spent on clothes. Mr A. at Jasra, which is quite close to the work in question has spent, I think, over Rs1,000, and when I saw him the other day in the station he told me he wanted more. And no doubt he does. Clothes will be in demand now right away to February, and the stronger and simpler they are the better. Just one long *chaddar* is all that the women here wear, and we could have given away five or six score of them yesterday to women, some of whom had no more upon them than some rags round their hips, with one loose bit that they had to hold up over their breasts with one hand.

Rough blankets as a protection against the rain and in the cold weather have been distributed in most places, in addition to garments, mainly to the old and debilitated. They cost from 14 annas to Rs1-8 a piece. The Chairman of the District Committee of Raipur in the Central Provinces states:—

Blankets.

A very acceptable present has recently been received by this Committee through the Bengal Branch of the Fund in the shape of a bale of woollen rugs: these will be utilised during the ensuing rains for the sick in the hospitals attached to the poor-houses.

Others were brought with money sent by the Ladies' Committee of the Indian Famine Clothing Fund in England to a firm in Calcutta, for expenditure on cheap blankets and quilts to be sent to the Central Provinces. Many more are needed.

## Object No. II.

### *Orphans.*

The following is the Vice-Chairman's account of the Orphanage at Allahabad:—

Orphanage at Allahabad.

In a corner of the enclosure was the Orphanage, containing some 30 or 40 little waifs and strays—all clean and neatly clad at the expense of the Charitable Fund, and looking moderately healthy. But should any one wish to create a sensation in England, he need only take a photograph of these orphans, as their little legs were like pipe-stems and the thighs of some of them, children of 6 or 7 years old, were no thicker than a baby's arm. Cholera and diarrhoea had swept away a great many—upwards of 70—in spite of every care and nursing. Therefore many had been drafted away, and, of those who were left, these poor things represented the healthy and strong. In all the Orphanages I visited later, I saw few such depressing sights as in that at Allahabad.

From the poor-house we went to the Children's Hospital, where the sick and very weakly were congregated. One or two of the little ones here presented spectacles I would rather not dilate upon, all the result of starvation. The expenses of their Hospital are entirely borne by the Charitable Fund. There was a motherly East Indian matron, looking kindly and even tenderly after the little creatures, feeding them three times daily with such delicacies as corn-flour and milk, and an intelligent hospital assistant was also present. We also visited the Children's Small-pox Hospital at some little distance off, in which were 15 inmates, most of them convalescents.

How came these children there? A great many were genuine orphans who had been supported by their relatives until the pinch came, and then they were cast adrift. Others have been deserted by their parents. They are collected by the Public Works officers, police, tahsildars and others, and sent to the Orphanage.

Founding of  
Orphanage in  
Central Provinces.

Missionary Orphanages, in which hundreds and even thousands of children have already found happy homes, are too well known to need description. The following account of the founding of a private Orphanage at Bhandara in the Central Provinces is interesting:—

While inspecting the poor-houses at Gondia and Tumsar in December last, Rao Saheb Rangrao and the Revd. Dr. Sandiland found there many little children who had either lost their parents, or been deserted by or separated from them, and who, they thought, should be taken special care of. They accordingly decided upon starting an orphanage at Bhandara. Such of the children as were willing to come were accordingly gathered together and brought to Bhandara. They were twenty in all. One of them was a little Kalal girl of three years of age. Here was a sad story. She had a sister about five years old and a brother aged about ten years. Their parents had died in the early stage of the famine, and they had strayed away from their home and had at last found refuge in the poor-house. The treatment at the poor-house did not satisfy the boy, and so one day, taking his two little sisters with him, he wandered away. They could not travel far, and the elder of the two sisters lay down at the road-side faint and exhausted and soon after died. What became of the boy is not known. The little girl was found sitting by the side of her dead sister and brought back to the poor-house.

The Orphanage was opened for such children as these. The distress in this district north of the railway line and towards Balaghat is very acute. While touring in this part, one day Dr. Sandiland came across a little boy, who ran after his cart and piteously appealed to him to give him some food. His mother, he said, had none to give him at home, and he had not tasted any for some time. He was taken charge of. In another village, in a hut, were found six little children, the eldest, a girl of about 14 years, all in a terribly emaciated condition. Both their parents had died, and they had none to look after them. They were also brought over to the orphanage. They are still under special treatment. Most of the children, however, came from the poor-houses. At the end of December their number was thirty, at the end of January forty. In February there was a serious outbreak of cholera, probably introduced by some child from the parts where cholera was raging at the time; and a good many were attacked, and some succumbed. The number at the end of February was reduced by death to thirty. At the end of March the number was 88. Up to December, the institution was maintained entirely by private charity. From 1st of January till the formation of the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, all expenditure was paid by Government. Since the constitution of the District Committee, it has paid Rs 149 towards its maintenance.

The Chairman of the Raipur Committee states:—

Incidents in  
Orphanages.

The state in which some of these children reach these cities of refuge is well illustrated by a story related to me by a Missionary gentleman. News being brought him that a woman had arrived at his poor-house with two children, a boy and a girl, he went off to it as soon as he could, found the girl just dead, the mother in an almost dying state, and the boy, though greatly emaciated, apparently lively and in no immediate danger. He gave restoratives to the woman and then took the boy up in his arms and began to feed him with spoonfuls at a time; the boy was talking volubly all the while of his sufferings on the road, when suddenly and without any previous warning, he expired in the Missionary's arms.

One sad little anecdote of a poor-house orphan is narrated by an Assistant Collector in the North-Western Provinces:—

A few days ago while two of us were looking over a poor-house about dusk, we found a small naked urchin weeping inconsolably in a corner. We asked what was the matter, and he told us his father, a high caste Thakur, had died a few days ago, and he, the eldest son, had no means of paying him the customary funeral honours of his caste. "What were they?" The distribution of a little grain to his poor caste fellows. "How much did he require?" About a penny worth. The officer in charge corroborated the story of the death and the child's trouble, so we took him with us to our camp and sent him back to the poor-house rejoicing with his coveted grain. Poor little soul, there was something very pathetic about the little naked orphan sobbing in the poor-house yard, because he wanted to feed the hungry.

Children in some parts of the country are as averse to entering orphanages as their elders are to entering poor-houses. On the other hand, in the most distressed districts parents are constantly found bringing their children *suo motu* and handing them over as the only means of preserving their lives, sometimes promising to reclaim them. And while a boy has been known to desert an orphanage and find his way across country 150 miles to the poor-house from

which he was taken, another boy, after a missionary had finished his selection of boys in a poor-house, ran amongst the girls and, unblushingly denying his sex, demanded to be taken away to the Mission Orphanage as a girl.

The following incidents are taken from a letter by the Revd. Dr. Johnson, an active member of the Jubbulpur District Committee, written on the 24th May:—

A man, a simple villager, came with his little boy and begged us to take him, saying he might be able to support himself but could not support the boy, and unless we would take him, he would die of starvation. He said to the child, "you remain here and be a good boy, and you will be well-cared for, and if I am spared, I will come to see you when I can do so!" The parting words were very tender and affecting. In a few days the father went into the poor-house and died there. As I was visiting the relief works one day, I saw a very lean babe and learnt that it was but four days' old, and its mother, a Brahmin woman, was that day carrying dirt in a basket on her head earning five pice a day. I asked her if she would go with me if I could find a home for her, which she was very willing to do. Her husband had died a short time before the babe was born. We cared for her about six weeks, when a good Native Minister, whose wife is a doctor, came along and took twelve orphans and this widow, and is caring for them in his own home. The great number of dependent ones can but become greater, until the crops to be sown in July mature. God be merciful, and give us a good October harvest."

But as already remarked, the main expenditure upon orphans from the Charitable Fund will be incurred when the famine is over and permanent arrangements for the orphans' support will be made.

### Object No. III.

#### *Relief of respectable persons.*

The forms which this object takes comprise the following:—

- (a) Money allowances to poor widows and respectable persons to prevent starvation.
- (b) Cheap grain shops.
- (c) Work given to private and respectable persons at home for which they are paid.

(a) This is one of the most important objects of the Fund and the papers Money Allowances testifying to its value are so numerous as to make a selection from them difficult. to respectable widows and families  
Government relief is always attended with a certain amount of publicity.



lies. It is impossible to discover their income, for they declare they have *none*: this can hardly be true; though it is easy to believe it must be very *small*, and so one can confidently and happily give them some much-needed help. Then various old women, of which there is never any lack, but who seem to have wonderfully multiplied of late, tell their tales of woe: one is blind, or nearly so, another deaf, and a third emaciated by illness, and all alike in having no one to provide for them; and as they receive what will at least keep them alive for another month, they shower blessings on the heads of those who have thought of and provided for them. One old lady accidentally produces the wrong ticket (which is given to all who received relief) and thus reveals the fact that she has been receiving it from two sources, and thus obtaining a double portion; however, seeing that she has divulged her secret, she is wise enough not to fight against the inevitable, and meekly gives up one of her cards.

The next house only contains one family, a very unusual case. The husband, a respectable educated man (Muhammadan) earns his living by teaching; but though they are able to live comfortably in ordinary times, it is a great struggle now, especially as one of his pupils has died, and it is difficult to get new ones. The wife, on whom the heaviest part of the burden falls, is made most happy and grateful by an addition to their small income: a small child proudly disports itself in an entirely new costume, on which one of the precious rupees given last month has been spent, while a still smaller child affectionately clasps a pumpkin as her share of the spoils, and informs me that now she gets potatoes to eat. House No. 3 always makes my heart ache; it is so utterly bare and miserable—just one barn-like room with no verandah or courtyard, and almost dark. Its furniture is one bedstead and two broken-down wooden stools. These nearly fill the whole space, so that there is little room besides, and here the family, consisting of the man and his wife, two married daughters with a child each, and a boy and girl spend their days. Their lot is all the sadder because it used to be so different; at one time they possessed a large house, but they have sold it all but this one room, and from being the owners of comparative wealth they have become the poorest of the poor. "You have brought us back to life again," they say as they receive their monthly allowance. Like so many Muhammadan men in Lucknow, the head of the family has never done any work; he had no need to do so in former days, and now he is too old and decrepit to do anything if he could. The women too have never needed to work, and so they are not able to either; they have lived selling their belongings, but now these have come to an end, and if it had not been for outside help, it would have been very hard for them.

In house No. 4 the inmates have a similar history, having come down from plenty to poverty. The family consists of a mother with a married daughter and two children. The son-in-law did nothing to support his wife, but took everything he could lay hands on to gamble, so the mother, being the owner of the house, turned him out, and now the two women live at any rate in peace; though, according to their account, they have nothing to live on, and would starve if they were not helped. A short walk brings me to another house which has many inmates. The old lady who holds the various relationships of mother, mother-in-law and grandmother to the other members of the family told me that she was related to the late King of Oudh, and used to be in good circumstances, but now things are changed, and with her, as with many others, the chief problem of life is how to live. As she finished her story, she added: "I never even told my own sister what I have told you now." The first time I suggested she might be glad of help she declined it, but afterwards consented, only begging that it might be given so that it would not be known, so now as I go in I am careful to select a seat close beside her, where the rupees I have brought can be slipped from my hand into hers, without any one but her daughter, who is in the secret, knowing what is going on. Just across the road is another house where live two aristocratic-looking old ladies. It is quite easy to believe that they also belong to the Royal Family. "We used never to *think* of our food, but only to eat it when it was prepared for us; but now at night we think what shall we eat in the morning and in the morning what shall we eat at night," are the words in which they describe their circumstances. It was a trial at first to think of taking outside help, but now they receive it gladly. The people who live next door to my two old ladies are quite different. They sent a servant one day, as I was passing, to ask me to come and see them, and then urged their claims without any misgivings. They, too, are well connected, and sometimes I have my doubts as to the reality of their needs, but in a work like this one must be contented to be taken in sometimes, for that is inevitable when truth is at such a low discount as in this country. There is one old lady here who believes in getting all she can; and, having received her allotted portion, usually has some further request to make: one day it is clothes, another day more money. However, such cases are very rare, and almost without exception those who are receiving the help provided for them are most satisfied with what they get and very grateful. They often say "there was never a famine when so much was done to help us."

The cases which I have described will give some idea of the work done amongst the better class of Muhammadans. In some ways this is the most difficult, as it is not easy to discover whether real poverty exists, when it is concealed under a certain amount of respectability. The only safeguard is that this class of people will not ask for it unless it is a real necessity, but even to this rule there may be some exceptions.

A much larger class with whom I come in contact are those a degree or two lower in the social scale, where the men receive a small pension (which, however small, they will try to live on rather than work), and the women slave to embroider caps for which they are wretchedly paid. Now there is no demand for their work; and just when they need it most, it cannot be had, or, if it is given, the payment is less than ever. It is an unqualified satisfaction to help *these* women, because they would so willingly help themselves if they could (the same does not apply to the men), and there can be no doubt as to their needs. There is a picture of a family of this description which comes very vividly before me as I write.

The dwelling-place is a small grave-yard adjoining a mosque which some charitable person has been kind enough to let them have the use of. The inmates are two women and two children. The elder woman in answer to a question says: "My husband left me a long time ago and I have never heard of him since," "and mine," says her daughter, died six months ago." "Cannot you do any kind of work?" I ask. "Yes, we used to do embroidering, but now nobody wants it, and the last we did we only got two pice for one hundred patterns, besides we cannot go out to look for it." And so they sleep on one of the graves at night, and cook their food in a corner of this grave-yard; and the only day which has any brightness is the one when they are again reminded that they are not altogether forgotten or uncared for. "You have brought our children back to life," they say, and such words as these repay a hundred-fold any trouble or labour which is taken to bring help to those in such sore need, and would also repay those who cannot see or hear for themselves, but show that notwithstanding they can *feel*, and feeling give.

Similar accounts by ladies who have distributed relief, in the ancient capital of Bijapur and the sacred city of Nasik, both in the Bombay Presidency, have been received; but the above must suffice as an illustration.

The Committee have been favoured also with the following note by an Assistant Commissioner on the military pensioners of the Jhelum District, <sup>Relief to pensioned sepoy.</sup> showing how they are affected by the present scarcity and assisted by the Famine Relief Fund:—

*I do not consider it necessary to quote any particular instance of a native soldier retired on his pension, and unable, without help from the Famine Relief Fund, to support himself and his family. Such instances are but too common in this district; and I have met and talked with many retired native soldiers in their villages, and on the relief works, where several were working under me as "mates" in charge of gangs of relief-workers. It must be remembered that Jhelum is a great recruiting centre. Men from the Jhelum District enlist not only in regiments in the Punjab, but in regiments in all parts of India. The Bombay regiments have men from Jhelum; men of this district are serving in Africa and Burma. A Hong-Kong regiment is full of them. The reason why so many enlist is probably that in many parts of the district the land, being cut to pieces with stony ravines, is so utterly unproductive, that a man to earn his bread must go elsewhere; or, at any rate, one son of the family must go, and by his service as a soldier contribute his little quota to the family purse. The amount of the remittances made in this District by sepoy to their families is very large.*

Now, it often happens that the native sepoy, from some cause or other, retires on a pension long before there is any necessity for his leaving his regiment. It may be that he enlisted in the hope of rapid promotion, and, being disappointed in this hope, decides to go, or, it may be, that the head of his family has died; there is trouble at home; there is no one to look after the family property, and he must go and do so. He takes his pension of about four rupers a month, and returns to his home. Of his pay he has saved nothing at all; it has not been possible for him to do so, for any small balance he might have saved after paying for his food is certain to have been absorbed by the many relations who came to live upon him directly he became a Government servant. Still, his small monthly pension makes a pleasant little addition towards the household expenses in a year when the crops are good, and there is no cattle-sickness. But then, a bad year comes; there is no rain, and consequently no crops nor fodder for the cattle; the cattle die and the "bunniah" \* begins to be troublesome (just in the same manner as the British tradesman) about his "little account." The sepoy finds himself with practically nothing in the world beyond his meagre pension to support himself and his family. The *res angusta domi* is more apparent than ever, since it is an absolute impossibility for a man to keep body and soul together on the little food he can afford himself. It is then that he turns to the Sirkar for help, for he would rather starve than beg or do the work of a low-caste man for a living.

In the present year of famine and scarcity, it has been possible for the District Officer to help this class of people with the aid of the money sent out from England. In many cases this has been done by establishing cheap shops, at which holders of tickets can buy their grain at a price much below the ordinary market-rate. It is the principle of the London soup-kitchen; but there is this difference, that the respectable poor in India are very difficult to reach. A man who has been of some position in the village,

\* Shop-keeper and money-lender.

and who has fallen upon bad times, will rather starve than openly ask for charity, and rather suffer—and make his family suffer too—than humble his pride and publicly apply to the District Officers for relief, when the only relief possible might be the doing of some daily task on a relief-work for a daily pittance. It is here that the benefit of the money so handsomely subscribed in England is felt. With the portion allotted to him, the District Officer can cause relief to reach those persons who are too proud to beg, and the recipients are fully cognisant that the taking of this welcome relief causes them no shame, no degradation in the eyes of their fellows, since the relief is not given before the eyes of all men.

It is, I take it, a fact that the knowledge of the generous way in which people in England and the Colonies have subscribed towards the Indian Famine Relief Fund will do incalculable good among many classes of native society. And one of the most important of these classes is the one whose members enter the service of Her Majesty as soldiers. It is tolerably certain that the ordinary agriculturist, whose understanding is bounded by the promptings of his stomach, while receiving the relief readily enough, has no appreciation whatever of the fact that the relief comes to him out of the pockets of persons, most of whom have never set foot in India and who only know of his condition through the newspapers. But it is otherwise with the native soldier. He is a man of some education; he understands and knows more of the ways of the white man; he can understand and appreciate the fact that, in these times of trouble, the subjects of the Great Queen, of whom he is or has been a servant, are helping him. This knowledge cannot but be of the greatest value as regards recruiting, and as regards the keeping alive of a good feeling in the Native Army.

The native soldier, undoubtedly, sees one more good trait in the character of the British nation, the members of which he knows by experience to be strong, powerful, just and humane rulers, to whom the poor man never turns in time of trouble without sure hope of succour.

The Reverend Mr. Thomas, a Baptist Missionary at Delhi, and member of the Executive Committee of that town, gives numerous instances of cruel hardship relieved from the Fund, and the great reluctance of respectable people to accept charity. He points out that in Delhi City there is a *work* famine as well as a *grain* famine, and adds, writing on behalf of his Committee:—

Sad cases might be multiplied indefinitely. Bedding, clothes, cooking utensils—everything saleable, have been sold, and at last they have been driven to appeal for charity. Many have taken tickets, but refused to use them until they could hold out no longer. Others refused to give their names, thinking that they would be worried in some way in their family affairs; but finding that that is not so, have at last yielded. We thoroughly sympathise with their desire for privacy and do all in our power to ensure it. With this bewildering sameness of poverty and need your Committee is endeavouring to deal and will continue to do its best to distribute the money you place at its disposal. This utter dearth of work is likely to continue another 4 or 5 months, and the need for help will go on increasing until the demand for lace again revives.

As a general rule, the lists of persons to be relieved under Object III by a money grant are made by native gentlemen of high position, submitted for sanction to a Committee, and distributed in person by one of the members. The Vice-Chairman, at Lucknow, himself went with two native gentlemen, one a Hindu and the other a Muhammadan, both professional gentlemen, to whom time was of value, and he can testify to the business-like, yet considerate, way in which the relief was paid. The following reports by the Collectors of Cawnpore and Bijnor show in one case the system usually adopted and in the other the importance of the Charitable Fund.

#### The Collector of Cawnpore reports:—

The city is divided for the distribution of relief into 19 circles, each of which is in charge of a native gentleman. The city fund is managed by an Executive Committee of four and of a sub-committee. The Executive Committee draw cheques and give them to the distributors. The sub-committee meets and makes suggestions to the Executive Committee. Each distributor keeps a register showing who is relieved and how much is spent. Their work is supervised by a number of Government officials,—the Joint and Assistant Magistrates, the Treasury Officer, Tahsildar, Sub-Judge, Munsiff, etc. All cheques are signed by the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee and by one member.

#### The Collector of Bijnor adds:—

By far the most important work done has been aiding women of the *purdanashin* class, who cannot appear out of doors. Many people of this class, chiefly widows, eke out a poor living by grinding corn and doing a little sewing or thread spinning at their own houses. With food so scarce and expensive as it has been, people have taken to

Reluctance to  
accept charity.

Careful selection  
of respectable per-  
sons to be assisted.

grinding their own corn and doing what sewing they cannot dispense with at home, and thus these poor women's means of subsistence have been cut very low. They live chiefly in the towns and larger villages, and I hear of them coming out at nights when they cannot be recognized to beg for a handful of grain. It is very difficult to get at these through Government officials, as their pride forbids them letting their want be known. Further, living in towns, they are not so generally known or so easy to find out as people living in small villages. Committees have accordingly been formed in 17 towns of respectable gentlemen of the town; the town is divided into circles and a member with local knowledge takes each circle and prepares a list of those requiring aid. His local knowledge enables him both to find out who really require aid, and to tell who have any means of subsistence. A small amount of money (the highest sum being Rs 2 or 2s. 6d. per month) is then distributed by the members twice a month. Even here one of the difficulties which has been experienced is that many who need and will accept aid are unwilling that their names should appear in lists.

At first an attempt was made to supply work instead of money to those able to work. It was found, however, rather difficult to dispose of the thread, etc., which resulted, and now the aid is given in money alone.

From the large town of Patna in Bengal the same need for relieving the poor people who ordinarily do odd jobs for their neighbours, but have lost employment owing to the high prices of grain, is reported, and the same mode of relief has been adopted.

An account, printed *verbatim et literatim*, from a native official of the relief given to respectable classes may conclude this part of the subject.

A native official's account of relief outside large towns.

I have personally distributed the money of Charitable Relief Fund in the large villages of Rath Tahsil, and in those which I could not visit myself promptly, the additional Naib Tahsildar has done the work. The money has been given in the hands of those persons for whom it has been proposed; in the case of a family having male members, in the hands of the head (Mukhia) of the family, and in the case of *pardanashin* widows, through some trustworthy and respectable inhabitants before whom they could appear. Relief has been given to 1,119 persons in 72 out of 180 peopled villages of this tahsil from the Charitable Fund, and it is generally given to respectable Hindu and Muhammadan males, females, and their children.

The above number also includes a small number who, looking to caste, are not styled as "respectable," but who became "respectable" by business and wealth in former days, and the vicissitudes of time subjected them to misery and difficulties. They are just like respectable persons in the matter of modesty and honour. It also includes some respectable petty zemindars who possessed but a very small property or had their property encumbered with debts, and who in these days of distress could not get loans or have their property sold; and it includes a few cultivators too. They consist for the most part of Brahmans, Thakurs, Kayasths, and respectable Muhammadans, and of few other caste-persons. Women and children form the largest proportion. In every village respectable distressed persons, who were in difficulties, had no means of support, and who preferred undergoing all sorts of sufferings caused by hunger and bearing its consequences to going to relief work have been selected for relief through the leading inhabitants of it.

At one time it was noticed that a man of an old respectable family was in distress, who, being led by shame and modesty, did not disclose his straitened circumstances to his neighbour. The latter, a woman, happened to go to his house to fetch fire, and there she came to know that fire was not lit in the house since a day before. (*Note*.—Not lighting a fire, or the hearth not being hot, is an Indian technicality for starvation.) The neighbour returning home revealed the fact. By chance I was in the village on that very day and learned all about this. I called that sufferer before myself and gave him relief. He with downcast looks accepted the relief, though he did not speak a word, but the motion of his lips indicated that he was offering his thanks. Once it was found that a respectable family having a big house was suffering from starvation. The signs of infirmity and dejectedness were apparent on the face of the head of that family. He used to pretend to be sick to those who enquired of him. A friend called on him, and on his asking for *Hugga*,\* the latter, a man of respectability but in sufferings, bent his head down with tears in his eyes. The sensible friend, perceiving his inward condition, returned home and sent some food for him, pretending that he had some *Puja* (worship) at his house on the day. The next day I got the information and gave him the relief out of the Fund.

Similarly, it was ascertained about a Hindu gentleman that he was in great trouble, deserved relief, and that he declined to accept it on the allegation that a relation of his had come to know of his state, and that he, the sufferer, was expecting help from him, the relation. I kept an eye over the matter to see if the help expected was given. Though that very day the sufferer received the help from his relative, yet I made arrangements through a special man to let me know instantly if the said relation withheld his help at any time. Again, I happened to learn the sufferings of a Muhammadan belonging to an old family of position and respectability. The relief money was offered to him, but he

\*A hubble-bubble.

refused to take it saying that he could not accept charity. He was then told to accept it as a *Karz Hasna* (a loan bearing no interest, and repaid at the pleasure of the borrower). The lender can never demand it, nor has he hopes of its recovery. The borrower, if unable to repay, is free from the religious punishment of non-payment of a loan. To advance such a debt is a very virtuous act. He then accepted the grant, and uttering that his royal nation's generosity preserves their lives by a variety of plans and arrangements which had never been thought of:

Finding a Muhammadan respectable family in trouble, relief was offered, but he refused to take it. But when he was called to a secret place and the relief money paid, he thankfully accepted it. Relief money was being given to a respectable man, a relation of whose said: "Was he taking charity?" The poor sufferer replying that it was not charity but an human sympathy of Europeans (*Sahib Log*), and that to refuse it was to refuse the blessings of God; so he took the relief money. None of those receiving relief and those present at the time of distribution thereof was found so as not to give utterance to these words—"The English have saved the country, may God maintain the rule in perpetuity."

The Fund has also completed the relief given under section 54 of the Famine Code to minor children, whose allowance was a little insufficient, by the increase of one pice, and it will result in the improvement of the coming generation. In short, the Charitable Relief Fund removes to a considerable extent the difficulties of the paupers and sufferers, and it is fully impressed on the minds of people of high birth and old respectable paupers specially that they are out of the danger of a coming calamity.

The Central Committee may add that numerous other reports, containing details of sad cases of respectable but poor persons relieved, and mentioning the reluctance shown by many to accept relief except in the very last resort, so as to save themselves from death by starvation, are on their records, and they wish once more to emphasise that they have ample proof, not only of the consideration shown in assisting such cases, but of the fact that, but for the Charitable Fund, deaths by starvation might have occurred amongst these classes, in parts of the very distressed areas.

(b) Cheap grain-shops, though not perhaps appealing to the imagination so much as the rescue of those who are absolutely starving, have been of the utmost value.

The Vice-Chairman, in his "Notes on Tour," has reported on the systems he saw in vogue at Lahore, Nagpur, and Amraoti. The following epitome of the system in force at Delhi may be quoted, from the pen of the Deputy Commissioner of that place:—

When the cheap rate system was first started, certain shops agreed to sell grain at the cheap rates fixed by the Famine Committee. Every person entitled to purchase at these rates was given a duplicate ticket. This he presented at the shop; the bunniah\* then entered on the tickets the amount sold and the date, and returning one to the purchaser kept the other as a voucher. Each ticket allowed a certain amount of grain to be purchased at a cheap rate during each week of the fortnight for which the tickets were current. The difference between the market rate and the cheap rate was then paid, with a small percentage for the clerical work. This system had to be abandoned, as it was impossible to fix a market rate for grain sold retail for the period.

This was followed by the present system, under which the Committee have established three shops under direct management. Corn is bought in bulk, and sufficient for the requirements of the shops are sent from the central godown. The money collected from the sale of corn is lodged in the Bank every second day and credited to the Fund. The tickets are issued by a Sub-Committee in each ward, who have reported on each individual case. These reports are sent up to the Central Committee and the returns scrutinised by members of the Committee, and any cases which appear doubtful are further tested. As soon as the Central Committee has passed a name as deserving a ticket, the name is brought on to the general register, and a ticket with a number corresponding to the register issued. No further enquiry is made. If the ticket has been used during the previous month, a new ticket is given for the next month, but if the ticket has not been used, enquiries are made and appropriate orders are passed.

The Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, notes that "in both Delhi and Umballa fraud was prevented by the close attention to the matter exercised by the Central and Sub-Committees."

This close attention has been found everywhere, with the result that the fund which pays the difference between the market and the special prices, is economised, while thousands of respectable persons, to whom the saving of even a few pice is of importance, have been relieved in almost every province. In

\* Shop-keeper.

Value of this kind of charity.

Cheap grain-shops.

Description of system.

Elaborate checks required.

illustration of the elaborate arrangements made in order to prevent abuses, the headings of the register kept at Lahore and the Deputy Commissioner's description of the system may be quoted, though the checks vary everywhere:

- (1) Number assigned to relieved person, being also number of his ticket.
- (2) Name and father's name.
- (3) Age and caste.
- (4) Address and occupation.
- (5) Total number of dependents in the family.
- (6) Remarks as to the means of livelihood.
- (7) Detail of persons needing support, *i.e.*, (a) children with age, (b) females unable to work, (c) widows unable to work, (d) old, infirm, and sick.
- (8) Amount of grain allowed daily.
- (9) Date of enlistment.
- (10) Name of section officer.
- (11) Remarks.

On the 15th November the above registers were distributed among the section officers, with a request that they would have them filled in as early as possible. Simple and practical rules of business were also framed, and a Sub-Committee appointed to check the registers and to audit the accounts. Terms were made with Lala Dulo Mal, a leading grain-dealer in Lahore, to open four shops for vend of grain to the ticket-holders. The sites chosen being (1) Anar Kali, (2) Water-works reservoir, (3) Chauk Jhanda, and (4) Akbari Mandi. From 19th November 1896 relief operations actually began, every ticket-holder getting wheat at the rate of 12 seers per rupee, while the bazar rate was only 8 seers. Lala Dulo Mal, the Committee's grain-dealer, generously came forward to give 1 seer per rupee on his own behalf, and 3 seers per rupee were given on behalf of the Committee. At first some of the people were a little reluctant to get their names registered for relief, but in a very short time the advantage offered was appreciated, and soon the number of families on relief registers began to swell to large numbers; and by the end of December we had about 4,500 ticket-holders (each of whom may be held to represent one family) on the registers, with a tendency to future increase, each man or woman getting from 1 to 3 seers concession per rupee. The Committee, feeling itself unable, for want of funds, to meet the whole of this large demand, was obliged to restrict the number of tickets in the different sections, and now we have about 3,000 names on the roll. Owing also to the want of funds, the concession allowance had to be reduced from 3 to 2 seers, which affords still a fair relief, and is appreciated by the recipients. From the 29th November up to the 8th of December 1896 the total amount paid to the grain dealers by the Committee was Rs. 2,016-3-6 as its share of the concession rate. As in the beginning there was some unavoidable delay in the issue of the tickets, and as all the registers could not be filled in in time, the amount spent was not high; but during the month of January, when the operations have been in full swing, the Committee will have had to spend about 5,000 and odd rupees. The accounts will soon be in the hands of the Committee; but, from rough calculation, I can say the Committee's expenditure will be between five and six thousand rupees for the month of January.

In spite of all the necessary checks, the Vice-Chairman noted everywhere that the sales proceeded with perfect smoothness, and there was no greater delay in serving customers at the special shops than at an ordinary shop in the bazaar.

One of the best points about the cheap grain-shop is that the people are sure of getting good, clean grain. In Raipur the adulteration which used to be 2 per cent. is said to have risen since the famine to 8 per cent. The Honorary Secretary of the District Committee reports that when the cheap grain-shop was opened, not only did the current market rates at once go appreciably down, though the equilibrium was not long in re-establishing itself, but instead of adulterated rubbish sold as an apology for rice, stall-keepers began to unlock their reserve stores and offer better grain for sale.

(c) Two of the most interesting reports received by the Committee are from ladies at Lahore, of which the Committee regret there is only room for one, for the very graphic report by Miss Bose,\* of the Victoria School, is too long for insertion. Altogether about 1,100 women are being given relief in the shape of work by three or four ladies, and the physical labour and trouble, especially during the hot weather, have been very severe.

The following account is from Miss Healy and Miss Fox of the Z. B. M. Mission in Lahore.

The women whom we have been relieving by the aid of funds granted us by the Central and Municipal Committees are chiefly Muhammadans. The number now receiving help is 400. We began relieving these in January, by giving out a weekly supply of



raw cotton which the women could take with them to their own homes to spin. As so many applied for the work, we limited the supply to a maximum of 2 lbs. for each woman, and the pay for spinning to the regular bazaar rate. At first we gave the highest rate which could be got for nicely-spun cotton, but on reducing the pay to a lower rate, only one or two women grumbled, which proved that only the deserving and really needy were being assisted. By far the larger number of those to whom this work is given are either widows or those deserted by their husbands. Of the latter, a great many come in utter destitution, as they are often disowned, not only by the husband, but by his family also, who refuse to aid them in any way. Broadly speaking, the women may be divided into three classes :—

- (1) Those who are of highly respectable origin, but who, through misfortune or the ill-doing of those who should support them, are left almost destitute. Such women, having often been brought up to a life of ease and comfort, find it very difficult to help themselves, and from motives of family pride, etc., dread to have the fact made public that they are receiving charitable aid in any form. These come to us privately and so manage to escape the disgrace of having their name entered in any public register, or their case investigated by male agency. One such has especially come under our notice, where the husband is suffering from some mental disease almost amounting to insanity. He formerly earned a salary of Rs 150 per mensem, but has for years been unable to do any kind of work. In the earlier stages of his illness he sold all his household goods and his wife's jewels, and squandered the money on luxurious food. His wife, a refined and well-bred woman, is given a little help by her only child, a youth, now earning Rs 5 per mensem, but as he has himself to support, he can allow his mother but a small pittance out of that sum. Another sad case is of a Hindu widow left absolutely alone, and who can do nothing but a little spinning to earn her living. This woman is of a high caste, as is also the woman of whom the above account is given.
- (2) The second class comprises those who in times of plenty are well able to earn a living by embroidery or sewing, but who are now out of work. With these may be included many women whose fathers, husbands, or sons are thrown out of employment on account of the general depression, and who usually do not work for their own living. In one case, a widow and her only son have no means of support since the boy has lost his work. One very sad case occurred in which an old woman, who can do fine leather work, had been unable to get employment which supports herself—she is a widow—and her orphan grandchild. The boy was taken ill on being given a bit of bread after starving for two days, and in this way the story of the old woman's poverty was revealed.
- (3) The third class is of those who are always dependent on the generosity of their more fortunate relatives, who, however, in these hard times have more than they can do to find food for their own children. Of these one poor widow may be mentioned, whose only child, a crippled girl, earns Rs 1 monthly by helping in a girls' school. The relatives find it impossible now to help them to the same extent as before, and the mother thankfully takes the cotton for spinning. In another family, a widowed mother, her widowed daughter, and three children and one other child have absolutely no sure means of support. The father was employed under a gardener, but only earned four or five rupees monthly at the best of times, so that the whole family has been more or less dependent on the gifts of relatives. These examples will shew the need for continued help until prices are much lower than at present; and the number of applicants who still crowd for the work, even when told they will be given less to do and less pay for what is done than at first, proves that many who at first would not take help are now reduced to the necessity of doing so.

In Bengal.

A letter dated 10th April from the Collector of Pabna in Bengal, to the Bengal Provincial Committee, gives additional testimony to the devotion of ladies to this kind of charitable work :—

I forward to you a letter received to-day from a lady who is in charge of a circle in this district. I doubt if there are many ladies engaged in distributing relief out in the villages at this season. The writer of it lives in a bullock cart. I only wish I could send you a photograph of that cart and its surroundings in the days when paddy is being given out. In this circle no actually gratuitous relief has been given so far, such is the necessity of economising funds, though, as Miss Arnold says, it must be given in the immediate future. Relief is administered by giving out paddy for husking, and, when the husked rice is brought in, the worker is allowed to keep a certain portion as food. Applicants are registered and given a printed ticket as they come (except those who for want of funds have to be turned away), and, as far as possible, their circumstances are enquired into at their homes, but as many come from 7 or 8 miles round, this cannot always be done. All the persons receiving relief are *women*, mostly

widows, but many, I regret to say, wives who, owing to the hard times, have been basely deserted by their husbands, the latter having run away, leaving in some cases, as I have seen myself, a young wife of about fifteen years with a baby of a year old, quite unprovided for and unprotected. The women of this district cannot do earth-work like the women up-country, and, but for the relief given, they would have no employment and have to live by begging or to starve. According to the number of persons in the house 40 or 80 pounds of paddy are given out at a time (the distribution is made twice a week, the other days being utilised for settling up accounts and making house-to-house enquiries), and out of the 80 pounds it is rigidly required that 46 pounds of cleaned rice shall be brought back. The maximum of cleaned rice that can be got from 80 pounds of paddy is 54 pounds, so that a family of 4 or 5 is left 12 pounds of rice to feed themselves for half a week, or something under 1 pound per head per day. If the paddy is of an unusually coarse kind, the outturn of husked rice from so many pounds is less in proportion. I am sure no one who reads this could accuse us of extravagance, and yet for this pittance we have 350 women coming on each date of distribution from all parts of a circle of 7 miles radius and sitting patiently all day in a temperature of over 100° F. (if they are lucky enough to find shade) awaiting their turn for measurements. Last time I visited the place I calculated that Miss Arnold, assisted by a Bengali man and a Bengali boy, had to manipulate in weighments during the day something like nine tons of paddy and rice, besides keeping the registers. Another 150 applicants could be put on the register in this circle at once if funds permitted, but there is work elsewhere also; and, much to her distress, as her letter shews, I have had to limit her weekly expenditure to a dead loss of Rs200 after re-selling the cleaned rice. And this reminds me that our Local Committee at Pabna have even had to ask this lady to turn shop-keeper under these trying circumstances, as it was found that the local grain dealers with their usual philanthropy were taking advantage of our forced purchases of paddy and sales of rice to cheat us in and out, and cause a loss both to us and to the starving consumers which neither can afford to bear.

In Hazaribagh, another Bengal District, cotton is given out for spinning for a very small wage:—

The raw cotton is bought locally at the market rate of 2½ seers for the rupee. It is given out to women of good castes, and women of lower castes who are physically unfit for earth-work, to be made by them into thread.

The making of a seer of cotton thread takes from three to seven days, according to the skill and ability of the worker. We are giving five annas per seer to the workers, or an average relief of one anna per day.

Great care is being taken by every Local Committee to give the work to suitable females, *i.e.*, those in really distressed circumstances and unable socially or physically to work on earth-work. The number at present is about 600, and this number is likely to be considerably increased as the distress deepens and mufassil arrangements are perfected.

With the thread thus obtained we are giving employment to the numerous *Jolahas* or weavers in the district, whose circumstances are notoriously bad, and who in a year like this are unable to earn a sufficient income by ordinary dealings. These *Jolahas* have agreed to weave the thread at rates much below the prevailing rates. This shews they are in real distress.

The Honorary Secretary of the Punjab Provincial Committee, in forwarding an extract from a graphic letter by Miss Pratt, a Missionary lady of the Roman Catholic Church at Umballa, which is too long to quote, remarks—

You will see what valuable help is being rendered by the Missionaries, and especially by the ladies, at this time. The ladies have taken up the work most earnestly, and exactly in the way that has been thought by the Central Committee and by our own Committee to be the best. They quite realise the undesirability of distributing absolutely gratuitous relief, and all who can work are helped by being given tasks of work to do for payment.

Everywhere we hear the same thing, that women are too proud to go out into the bazaar where grain is being sold at cheap rates with the aid of our funds. They would die rather than bring on themselves such degradation. We hear, too, on all sides that scores of people on the verge of starvation will not accept gratuitous relief. Given work to do, they do it gladly and feel no shame in taking the money they have earned.

It is sad to think what the state of many women must be in towns where we can get no such agency as that of the Missionary ladies to convey to them relief in such a way as they can accept.

The last observation is sadly illustrated by the account of a lady missionary in an outlying village in the Central Provinces, who relieved during the month of May 120 high-caste women and distributed rice and parched grain to starving women, children, and infirm persons, and has given details of very mournful cases in which, thanks to her mission, poor women have been rescued from famine.



## Object No. IV.

*Starting in life again those who have lost all.*

Giving work to weavers and professional workmen.

Practically, three-quarters of the outlay so far has been devoted to this object, which includes the measures taken, even during the currency of the famine, to prevent professional workmen and cultivators from sinking into complete ruin. The relief of weavers and artizans has everywhere received special attention. The illustration that follows is from a Barrister, Mr. Gour, whom the Raipur District Committee have entrusted with this branch of their work:—

The District Committee's operations in this connection commenced as early as February last, when tentative advances of Rs 10 a loom were made to 15 weavers, and they were told to bring as good cloth as they could for the money, when further advances would be made. . . . The news of this spread abroad, and within the next two or three days the Deputy Commissioner was inundated with applications from weavers from even the remotest corners of the district. Similar treatment was accorded to these applicants. Sub-divisional officers in charge of relief works also began to apply for sums wherewith to make advances on the same terms, and the Committee freely gave such amounts as were asked for. At the outset some fears were expressed as to the safety of entrusting weavers with advances, but actual dealings with them showed that there was no cause for apprehension. There was only one instance, and that in the case of one of the nomadic classes of weavers, the Momins, of failure to fulfil obligations. So mutually sympathetic indeed did the weavers prove in their common affliction that they with alacrity stood security for each other, and the faithfulness with which they have, as a rule, acted up to their promises is a strong indication of their being fully alive to the sentiments of gratitude for the timely assistance given them by this Fund in the hour of their sore need. One or two illustrations of this will suffice. One of their comrades, who had received the usual advance, having died of cholera, his fellow villagers, rather than that the Committee should suffer loss, silently and undemonstratively contributed each his mite towards making up the amount necessary to meet the dead man's obligations. The same thing was done, and equally unobtrusively, in another village, in the case of a man, whose stock of cloth which he had woven for the Committee, was burnt with his cottage. The amount of self-sacrifice involved in such conduct will be better appreciated when it is stated that out of the advances made to these artizans, they cannot earn more than four rupees a month at the outside to support themselves and their families, which in very rare instances consist of less than five members, and they have in many cases aged parents to support as well. Residing, as I do, in close proximity to the offices of our Committee, I have had many opportunities of noticing the manner in which these poor people stave off their hunger during that period of unavoidable delay while their individual cases are being enquired into. Although we were willing to help them with a free cooked meal, these men would not partake of it, even though orthodox Brahmin cooks were provided. Caste was the formidable barrier that stood between them and the free kitchen, which was in full swing on the relief works only a few yards away. Some of the lower castes of weavers would go to my butler and ask him for rats trapped during the night: these some of them actually roasted and ate. The upper classes of weavers allowed themselves to be actually famished at home before they would even come to ask for an advance. They generally brought with them a handful of parched and fried gram with which they managed to stave off temporarily their pangs of hunger. Seeing this, we commenced giving them subsistence allowances pending an enquiry into their case, and though they of course received this with more than ordinary delight, very few spent the amount on themselves, and whatever advances were made were carefully stowed away for their families at home.

During the first month of our operations the amount advanced by our Committee was rather over Rs 4,000, representing relief to at least four hundred heads of families, but the system having now developed, our advances are now on a far larger scale, and during last month (May) alone they have aggregated over Rs 10,000. In all, and including the advances made by us to Sub-Divisional Officers for weavers, we have advanced nearly Rs 18,000 up to the date of writing this report, and we have thus been able to extend relief to over 2,000 heads of families, representing, with their dependents, some 14,000 individuals relieved under this head of relief alone; and I can hear nothing but a chorus of grateful voices in praise of the benefactors, who, from the far side of the *Kalapani*\* have played the rôle of "the Good Samaritan" towards their distant and unknown fellow-subjects in the far-off east.

The Provincial Committee add:—

The Government refunds the value of all cloth prepared under the above system and not distributed in relief by the Committee. Mr. Oswell, Honorary Secretary to the Raipur District Committee, writes: "Other classes of artizans being relieved by us are represented by workers in brass, tin, copper, and even in silver and gold, and also bangle-makers, all the distressed amongst whom are in receipt of advances from the Committee

\* Black water, i.e. the sea.

to enable them to pursue their respective callings without falling into poverty, and so swelling the ranks of paupers, already an inconveniently large class. One special object of such an organization as ours is to keep people as much as possible on their feet, or, if they have already fallen in the struggle, to set them on their legs again."

As a matter of fact, the cloth made by weavers under the system of Charitable advances is almost always distributed amongst the destitute and naked, so that two objects of the Fund are served. In Bijapur and some other districts where weavers are numerous, the Committee only purchase locally-made cloth.

The cases where weavers have been assisted to buy looms, or other artizans the implements of their trade, are rare in comparison, for the reason that during a famine a loom is unsaleable, and those who visited the Indian Exhibition in London must be aware how very simple and inexpensive are the tools of the ordinary artificer. Instances are, no doubt, numerous in the aggregate, where men of these classes, having parted with everything, down to their last brass pot, have been aided with grants to buy another set of implements. Ploughs have been given to cultivators and even coolies in one district were granted one rupee each to buy spades, shovels or pickaxes.

Purchase of implements.

The reports before the Committee, however, deal mainly with the measures taken to start in life again the most important class of small peasants, whether proprietors of their own land or possessed only of tenant-right, whom a succession of bad seasons had absolutely ruined. This has been infinitely the most valuable and widespread form of relief, starting afresh, as it has done, hundreds of thousands of small farmers, who from want of security to give, could not obtain advances either from the Government or the money-lender. Government has, it is true, lent out vast sums on liberal terms to those from whom there was a chance of repayment, but the Fund has relieved those whom even Government could not assist.

Largest portion of fund expended in assisting cultivators.

The relief given to cultivators has taken the form generally of money-grants (gifts in kind are noticed lower down) to enable the ryot to buy—

- (a) Plough and well bullocks,
- (b) Fodder to keep his cattle alive,
- (c) Seed-grain, and
- (d) Food with which to support himself and his family or labourers during the sowing and weeding season until the crop is ripe.

The distribution has been almost everywhere entrusted to the district officials of the Government. In towns, where educated and intelligent Native gentlemen are to be found, the District Committees could depend upon them almost entirely for the selection of persons entitled to charity. But in villages, where, besides the village money lender, the only person who can read and write is the Patwari or village-accountant (by whatever name he be called) who keeps up the village records, the system has been for this writer and the head of the village (Patel or Lumbardar), or the local Zemindar, to make out jointly lists of the most distressed persons. These are checked, with the aid of the village books which show details of every man's holding, by the Kanungo, or

Government officials.

intensity of the famine is clear from the fact that some 13,000 are gratuitously relieved, while a like number is supported on road works. This "riding" is again split up into ten circles, over which is set a native revenue-official (Kanungo); each Kanungo has some twenty smaller circles within his larger circle, each in charge of an inferior official (Patwari). Early in May a grant was made for this "riding" of eighty thousand rupees to be distributed under this object. In this country the biblical ox is employed for dragging the plough: the latter is no modern contrivance of steel and blue paint, but an old-world thing of wood, very rough, and primitive, not unlike the engravings in a Homeric glossary. In average soil a yoke of good oxen can plough about ten acres; accordingly it was decided that a yoke should be the limit, though in cases of small cultivators a single ox was deemed sufficient; the price of a yoke of sound oxen varies from twenty-five to thirty-five rupees: the mean was taken, and thirty rupees reckoned as a fair price. This eighty thousand was first divided under the heads of "oxen and seed"—₹25,000 for the latter and ₹55,000 for the former. These sums were divided in proportion to the population among the ten "kanungo" circles and, in turn, the patwari circles, until each village had an allotment roughly proportionate to the population and prevailing distress.

Then came the question how was the money to be distributed among the village folk.

The simplest plan would have been to present a lump sum to the headmen of each village with instructions to make a fair division. Such means must have been fatal to the end in view, and a small amount only would have reached the cultivators.

A compromise was adopted. Patwaris were ordered to prepare lists, from the revenue records at hand, showing the amount of land held by each cultivator and actually cultivated with the numbers of oxen used in its cultivation during the past four years. These lists were to be used as a check, and could be depended on when reference might be necessary. Then the headmen of the village were to make a list of their own nominees, which patwari, kanungo and revenue officials were to scrutinize and annotate. The final decision lay with the European Famine Officer, who had all the facts of the case to hand. A date was then fixed when each circle was to be present at head-quarters to receive the money. Meanwhile the Famine Officer made enquiries on his rounds of inspection. He rides up to the village green, saying in a cheery voice, "You'll get fourteen yoke here." A look of grateful contempt is seen on every face, and in chorus they exclaim plaintively, "A mere nothing, we want a hundred yoke at least." He is hardened to such a reception and asks to see the list—a dirty slip of yellow paper covered with illegible scrawls. He enquires who the first nominee is, and the second: a slight hesitation, the headmen confesses the former is himself and the latter his baby son: it turns out that he has at least four yoke of oxen and pays a yearly revenue of four hundred rupees. The list goes on the same style; the consequence is that the whole thing is annulled, and the several landholders are asked to nominate needy tenants; after much wrangling and disputing, a fresh list is made and signed, and the interview ends unsatisfactorily to all parties except those whom charity delighteth to honour. One landholder was most amusing: ten yoke of oxen were allotted to his village; asked for the list, he produced from the most hidden recesses of a scanty costume a dirty scrap of paper, containing his address, then his personal history and misfortunes, after which this document declared that he had nominated himself as the most deserving case for the whole ten yoke, below which was duly appended his full signature and titles. Loath to disappoint him, it was gently explained that he had mistaken the objects of the Fund, whereupon he philosophically nominated the most deserving cases.

On the day fixed for distribution, a steady stream sets towards head-quarters: the lucky nominees are there; there, too, are seen those with a grievance duly written out in the form of a petition, which ends with the assurance that some villain is your humble servant, and will ever pray for your long life and happiness, always prefaced by an outrageous demand of some kind. Then, too, there is the patwari, vulture and shepherd in one, the land-holder, and the riffraff of the village community: all alike attended by a stout iron-bound quarter-staff and many by big white umbrellas. The arrival of the Famine Officer is the signal whereat a sea of handkerchiefs are set in motion, which however prove to be the aforesaid petitions.

Then the distribution begins: they are marshalled up to the receipt of custom, village by village: the name is called and the money paid with an injunction to buy oxen and produce them on a certain date when seed will be likewise disbursed. A certificate is given to each recipient, declaring the conditions whereon he receives the money. Many an aged cultivator shook with excited joy as he felt thirty silver rupees put in his hand, which he said he had never held so much before. As a rule, their mind was apathetic: they hardly realised it was a free gift, and many thought it was merely a loan. The unfortunate widow was very much *en evidence*: it is embarrassing to be assured by some eager female that she will sit on your steps day and night till she gets her petition granted, a threat which she literally carries out. At first a large class thought it too good to be true and on the first two days absentees were numerous: news soon spreads, and afterwards one had no complaint to make on this score. There is a very general idea, no doubt fostered by the plague precautions, that this charity in all its branches is merely preparatory to a great scheme for transporting large number across the "Black Water," whereby they mean to the Andaman Isles. This idea prevented a certain number coming forward, though it is gradually losing credence.

The question of identity is a difficulty: caste and father's name reduce claimants, but a pure love of prevarication induces numbers to give a false name for no appreciable reason. On the other hand, a man is often known by his wife's father's name as well as his own. A man is literally known by the fact that he is his own father's son. One Brahmin boy, a fat little fellow, "clothed on with chastity," answered every name, and each time disputed his right with the true claimant, whether thakur\* or chamar†: at last, he was induced to state his own name and his persistent dishonesty was rewarded with the price of an ox, which however was intrusted to his mother with the warning "not to buy sweets."

The distribution occupied ten days, as the lists required a certain amount of scrutiny, and numerous disputes had to be roughly settled.

The seed money was distributed in the same way, only Rs25,000. On a rough estimate, a "bigha"‡ cost a rupee to sow: accordingly from the lists it was seen how many "bigha" each man cultivated last year, and each man in proportion to his acreage and deserts received a sum varying from one to twelve or fifteen rupees.

An additional element of excitement was added to the distribution of seed-money by the presence of the plough cattle. The recipients of money-grants for oxen were told that, on showing their purchases, they would receive money for seed. The result was that during the five days the distribution occupied, over three and a half thousand oxen of every sort and description came into the station. The process of branding the beasts with the appropriate device "C. F." did not lessen the confusion. Nobody was killed: at least if he was, he did not complain about it. More than that would be exaggeration. One enterprising cultivator purchased two buffaloes with his fifteen rupees, and it was satisfactory to see that everyone, with very few exceptions, had bought oxen somehow—as a rule, a very good yoke—though one saw cases where some avaricious creature had saved at least half the sum.

The lowest Native Subordinate, very often, is grasping and badly paid, and owing to the vague fear that he may do a humble subject an injury, his capacities for extortion are great. The reports, therefore, teem with the precautions taken everywhere to see that toll was not taken of the charitable money. Precautions taken to prevent extortion by officials.

One Collector in the North-Western Provinces writes—

The money was paid by the officers named personally *i.e.*, four members of the Indian Civil Service, and two native gentlemen in the Provincial Civil Service, special precautions having been taken to prevent personation. The plan of the lambardars and patwaris was to let the people get the money and then take it from them. I have had complaints of this from all tahsils. I have already dismissed several patwaris, and some lambardars have been punished criminally. I on appeal, upheld only the other day two sentences of four months each inflicted by H. I should have given more myself. The good effected by the liberal grant must have been very great indeed. It was just what was wanted. The wildest expectations, however, were excited, and when we called in, the people selected whole villages turned up also of their own accord. I was mobbed all over the district. I gave the officers above mentioned the fullest authority to alter the registers at the time of actual distribution, as they had then very good opportunity of testing the lists. Entries of payment were made at the time in the registers and these will be the only accounts. I did a good deal of testing myself and consulted personally with every one of the officers above mentioned and gave them my ideas. One and all of them were most zealous and did their very best. H specially took an enormous amount of pains. Of course the time at our disposal was very short. Going about the villages I never found that the people understood that this was mainly private charity from England. They always said it was "sarkari," and when I told them about it they did not take the slightest interest in that part of the matter. It mattered not to them where the money came from. When the people got their money, they made off in a great hurry. This perhaps was scarcely to be wondered at with the harpies about. We undoubtedly distributed a lot of money very widely over the district to the proper persons and the harpies will have to work very hard to get much of it.

And a Deputy Commissioner tells the same story from another part of the country— Summary justice.

We have been distributing Charitable Relief money for plough-bullocks and seed-grain for the last three days here, and on Thursday captured a patwari who had taken Rs44 from cultivators who had just received grants, out of a total of Rs120 odd for the patwari's circle. The patwari had a summary trial, short shrift, and received 25 stripes "*coram populo*" (in the presence of over 1,000 cultivators). The effect was magical and the other patwaris are quaking in their shoes. We are on the track of another patwari who is accused of similar practices.

\* A high-caste Rajput.

† A low-caste carrier.

‡ A bigha varies in area. The bigha usually recognized by Government is equal to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an acre.

In Bengal again a Collector states in a private letter:—

One officer sent an urgent message to me that he had with his own hands chastised a "patwari" whom he had caught taking money from a recipient, and saying he hoped I would excuse it. I wrote back to say what his action was much to be commended.

As proving the interest taken by the highest officials in the proper distribution of the fund, and also as illustrating the rates of payment made, extracts from the diary of a Commissioner, dated 18th May 1897, will be interesting—

Spent the day with the Collector, witnessing the distribution of payments from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, Head IV, for the purchase of 'seed' and 'cattle'. In Tehsil Karchana there are 383 mouzahs, 43 with no sites, 340 inhabited villages. In 137 of the latter money to the extent of Rs60,000 is being distributed, and at the present rate, the money will all be in the hands of recipients by 3rd or 4th June. A list of all tenants and petty zemindars had been made for each village giving the area of kharif in his holding and the details of rice-land and fields growing ordinary rain crops. For the former Rs2 per bigha on the average has been given for seed, and for the latter Rs8. In this list also recorded the number of cattle (plough and others) owned by each person at the beginning of the year, the number, if any, the cultivator has lost during the year, by death, or by sale induced by distress, and the balance available. In giving grants for cattle Rs12 was the price ordinarily allowed for one animal. In the case of small holdings, *e.g.*, 4 or 5 bighas, the fact was considered that, if a tenant had one plough bullock, he could always arrange by mutual loaning of cattle for ploughing with some other petty cultivator and get his small plot ploughed. In such cases money for seed only was usually given. In the case of larger holdings, where the tenant had lost all, or all but one of his cattle, he was given a grant for a pair of bullocks or one bullock respectively in addition to seed. A list of recipients was prepared after scrutiny of this complete list, other considerations being given due weight. Thus, if neither the tenant nor his family had gone on the relief works, he was thought likely to have some means of his own.

Thakur Salehdi Singh and the Tehsildar of Karchana were working very hard at the scrutiny of the list and distribution of money. Several village lists were gone through in our presence, and an example may be useful. In Pachhokhra, with a total area of 446 bighas kharif cultivation, we had 268 bighas of rice, plus 178 bighas other crops. Rupees 557 were allotted to this village, and, in addition to 65 recipients in the abstract lists of recipients, the detailed scrutiny of the original list by the Deputy Collector and interrogation of the applicants ended in three more being selected as fit recipients of the charity.

As regards the provision of seed grain by dealers, the general opinion seemed to be that the news of all those thousands of rupees being distributed for purchase of grain seeds had already been wired by dealers in Allahabad to dealers in rice and grain marts elsewhere, and that the supply would be arranged in a very short time by private enterprise. As instances of the liberal extent to which free grants are being made, I may cite Mouzah Tilkham where out of 45 cultivators on rough lists money was given to 24, and in Mouzah Osa to 44 out of 98 names. The careful checking of the lists by personal enquiry and the disbursement of money goes on from morning to night, all payments being made in the presence and by order of the Deputy Collector or Tehsildar. This trying work in the hot weather is being most energetically performed by the two Deputy Collectors and Tehsildars above named and their staffs. Mr. F. proceeds to Meja to inspect this branch of work on Friday, 21st. So far from any of the villagers gathered round showing any hesitation in taking or asking for charitable grants, the foremost in whining pleadings for gifts were zemindars of positive solvency, banias\* and sonars,† who of course were not given free grants, but whose names were noted for takavi,‡ if they chose to apply. It is, of course, impossible to prevent a recipient of charity from spending a gift as he chooses; but all the recipients were repeatedly warned to restrict the use of their grants to purchase of seeds and cattle and advised on no account to pay any part of it in satisfaction of rent claims.

I did not see a single token of gratitude or hear a single word of thanks, but the sight of two native officials dealing out charity in the presence of the English officers may well, by its rarity, have somewhat stupefied them. The Baghelkhandi is a long suffering and very undemonstrative person in public, except when he appears with a petition. I am told that this charitable distribution is the theme of much village talk, and its character fully recognised by the agricultural community.

The following account, though lengthy, from the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, one of the worst districts in the Central Provinces (in which out of a rural population amounting to 650,000, more than two-thirds are raiyats and most of the rest depend upon agriculture indirectly), affords one more proof of the care taken in dispensing money from the Fund.

It has always been understood that any cultivator who could in any way raise enough money to buy seed or plough-cattle on his own account, should not participate in the

\* Shop-keepers.

† Goldsmiths.

‡ A Government advance or security, with interest.

Interest  
taken by  
high  
officials.

Careful selection  
made in Central  
Provinces.

charity, and a great deal of the enquiry we had to set on foot was directed to finding out that only really-deserving cases were helped. In March last the District Committee resolved to put the preparation of the lists of cultivators in the hands of the Famine Relief Officers appointed by the Government for the supervision of all famine measures. Of these, there were seven, each in charge of a separate portion of the affected tract. One of the Relief Officers was a member of the Civil Service, one an Officer of the Staff Corps, two were Forest Officers, one a European Member of the Provincial Service and two Native Officials.

These officers received from the Deputy Commissioner detailed instructions as to the preparation of village lists in which should be shown the names of all indigent cultivators, the quantity of seed-grain required by each, and of grain to feed himself and his family during the rains, and in cases where plough-cattle were wanted the number of bullocks absolutely necessary to enable the cultivator to plough his land. The enquiry into all these details was a very prolonged matter. It involved much inspection of the village papers, in which are recorded all particulars as to the holding of each and every cultivator. From these papers could be ascertained the extent of the land in each man's possession and the crops which he usually sowed. On these data an estimate was framed of the quantity and kind of seed-grain the cultivator would need, and the amount necessary to purchase this was noted down. The Relief Officer had of course to use his own discretion as to the extent of the grant to be made. For instance, it would be impolitic to give a cultivator with a considerable extent of land enough money to buy seed for the whole of his holding, thus, perhaps, leaving needy people with smaller holdings out in the cold. In a case like this only so much seed-grain would be allowed for as would enable the cultivator to sow a portion of his land, and thus give him a fresh start in life.

The computation of food-grain to be allowed for consumption in the rains, when the cultivator would be engaged in tilling his field or watching his crops and thus be unable to go to the Government Relief Works, was to be taken up at the time. Here again allowances could be made only on the basis of the strictest necessity, and it was invariably understood that all members of the family who would be not actually engaged in cultivation should receive no help from the Fund. Plough-bullocks had also to be estimated for. In some cases cultivators were given the price of one or two bullocks as might be required. In others they were given a small amount to enable them to hire plough-cattle to till their land.

Throughout the whole of April and the first half of May the Relief Officers were daily engaged in drawing up lists of the requirements of the cultivators. What I would specially bring to notice is that all these enquiries were made on the spot, the help of the chief man of the village being called in, in order to ascertain the actual need of individual cultivators. As might be supposed, the latter always made their case out to be as bad as it could be. Standing on one leg, the scantily-clad raiyat would tell of the large and hungry family he had to support, and of the wrench it was to him to part with his last plough-bullock in the end of the autumn when his rice crop had withered away. One of the village headmen would probably at this juncture suggest that a bullock could still be seen tied up in the court-yard of the suppliant's house. Then would come the rejoinder that that was only an old beast unfit for the plough. After various parleyings the truth would be arrived at at last, and an agreement come to as to the necessities of the applicant's case. In this connection I may note that fodder has been abundant in this district throughout the year, and the cultivators have had less difficulty in keeping their cattle alive than in keeping the life within their own bodies. True, numbers of cattle were sold merely for the price of their skins, but on the whole there has been no such great reduction in the numbers of the village cattle as a year of famine would lead one to expect.

By the middle of May the Relief Officers had finished the preparation of the lists showing the needs of the cultivators. The result of their enquiries was laid before the District Committee on 22nd May. Briefly it was proposed to assist 20,465 cultivators and for the purpose a sum of over Rs. 3,00,000 was required. This made very little allowance for subsistence grain, as it was finally decided that this should be given later on, as necessity arose during the rains. To meet this demand the District Committee could give only Rs. 2,45,000, so that the amount allowed to the cultivators, already barely sufficient, had to be cut down by about a sixth. We do not know as yet whether we are to get a further grant later on in the season.\*

The distribution of the Rs. 2,45,000 allotted was taken up immediately after the meeting of the District Committee and by the present time (June 10th) the whole sum has been given out.

We thought it best to pay the cultivators money down, rather than enter into any arrangement for buying and distributing grain or for purchasing bullocks and handing them over to the cultivators. In the first place, the cultivator knows exactly what he wants, and how to get it. He can also drive a much better bargain than could any outside agency. Besides, in earthing and storing grain a good deal of expense would have been incurred which will be saved by letting the cultivator go to his own market and carry his purchases home himself. It may be suggested that it is hardly safe to trust to people

\*The District Committee have since received an additional grant.



who are in a very woe-begone condition spending the money on the objects for which it is given. This is a matter to which we gave a good deal of thought, and the universal opinion of people best able to judge was that the cultivator could be trusted. The getting of seed to sow and of bullocks to plough his land is of such absolute necessity to the cultivator that he can be safely depended upon to think of them before anything else. Moreover, the direct supervision of the Relief Officers will help to keep him from making an improper use of the money.

It is yet too early to gather fully how the money has been spent, but I give the following extracts from reports which have just reached me.

Mr. M., Relief Officer, S. Teshil, writes:—

"I was astonished to find on my way here last night numbers of people camped on the roadside, and on enquiry I found that they were charitable relief recipients from Murwara Teshil come down here for grain. They obtained it chiefly from Semaria. Most of them had thus come 30 miles by road to get their supply of seed grain."

Mr. L., Forest Officer in the B. Circle, writes:—

"June 2nd.—I was very glad to find that the persons who have received money for bullocks are buying them. To-day I passed several that had just been bought.

June 4th.—Visited Gorha village. Bullocks had been obtained by all who had received money for the purpose."

Mr. M., Relief Officer in the B. Circle, writes:—

"The tenants who have received help are using the money properly. I had previously distributed Rs. 5,000 for bullocks to villages in the south of the Circle. I have just been down there again to distribute the remainder of the money, and from my enquiries I believe that in almost every case the recipients have bought bullocks. I met a few people near Kudri who were seeking bullocks there, and I know that the price of bullocks is tightening daily, which proves the sudden demand. I have also enquired where the tenants are getting their seed from, and the answers I have got convince me that seed is being largely bought up."

As the distribution had taken place only a week or so before the above reports were written, I think the assurance these officers give are sufficient to show that good use is being made of the money. That the people are deeply grateful for what is being done to help them, I hear expressions on every side. To the cultivator, these small gifts of money to help him to set up again in life are of the greatest value. As I have already mentioned, he can be trusted to sow his field, even though it might be a sore temptation to use the grain he thus puts in the ground for purposes of food. It is sincerely to be hoped that the rains for which we are now awaiting may be good and sufficient. If this be so, the charity which has saved so many of the patient toiling cultivators from ultimate ruin will be ten times blessed.

Distribution in the Punjab.

The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, who estimates that in the greater part of his district only 15 per cent. of the plough cattle were left when the monsoon approached, and who distributed Rs. 5,00,000 in Government loans to those who could give security, was also entrusted by his District Committee with Rs. 2,35,000 for charitable grants. The work was done by his four Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners personally on the same system as in the Central Provinces, but each village was taken *seriatim*, the applications received beforehand were considered and the money paid by the officer on the spot without further reference. The work was peculiarly severe, owing to the intense heat of the weather. Proprietors who had mortgaged their lands to buy food rather than go upon relief-works or helpless widows or minors and tenants, hereditary and others, such as army pensioners who had lost proprietary right while serving with the colours, persons of all castes whose fathers held certificates of loyal service during the mutiny, village servants and watchmen, whose duties compelled them to stay at home while others could go to relief-works or tenants of landlords too poor themselves to render assistance, comprised the bulk of the persons relieved. The Deputy Commissioner states that the value of the gifts has been very great. He observes:—

They (the gifts) have given the peasant-proprietor involved in debt his only real chance of recovering the land he and his forefathers have held for so many years. They have practically secured to the occupancy tenant continuity of possession of his ancestral holding just as it was threatened by a grasping and alien landlord. They have insured the widow and orphan their daily food and clothing. They have saved the humbler members of the village community from sinking into a state of absolute dependence on the good will and favour of their powerful neighbours, and they have shown the old loyal servants of the State whose fighting days are over that their services are still borne in good memory.

The Collector of Saran, one of the most overpopulated and distressed districts in Bengal, narrates the distribution of money after an overwhelming fall of rain and accompanying flood which has destroyed the germinating grain in June :—

I concentrated my relief-staff on getting money into the hands of the sufferers to enable them to buy seed with, and before the month had passed over, 1,00,000 rupees had been distributed. I employed only those in whom I could trust, and they, so far as possible, distributed in the villages themselves or at any rate at some convenient centre to which the villagers could easily come. Besides the best of ordinary staff of circle officers, I employed eight extra men in preparing lists of deserving cases, and the statements of the recipients were checked from the village rent-rolls. By this means we relieved the mass of petty cultivators possessing, many of them, less than an acre. The more substantial were helped with Government loans.

The Collector adds that the actual distribution of the money was made personally by officers of the Civil Service, Military Officers and Planters, sometimes at their camps and at others in the villages themselves. Specially vigorous action has been taken to punish cases of extortion by petty officials. The accounts have not yet been fully audited, but out of a sum of Rs. 1,25,000 given away, the returns show that 24,452 persons received Rs. 1,01,169-14-3, or about Rs. 4-4-0 each.

The Central Committee is again indebted to Mr. Hose, the Provincial Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee, for a test taken of the results of distribution under Object IV. There could not be better proof of the value of the gifts :—

Report on good already effected by gifts to cultivators.

I did not have time to make a very extended tour round the fields. But what I did see was very satisfactory. In the villages of Kanti, Belwa, Sondwa and Kundharia I saw all the men who had received money grants for the purchase of cattle. They had received either Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 each, and every one of them had bought a bullock, paying Rs. 12, Rs. 12-4, Rs. 13-12, Rs. 15, Rs. 15-4, and so on. All of the bullocks so bought had been branded with the letter "C," so there was no mistaking them. I saw also another man ploughing in another village, of which I have not the name, and one of his yoke also was a "khairati," i.e., charity bullock. These villages stretch over a line of about seven miles of country. In Belwa and Kundharia, also in Bhabokhan and Goonchee, villages whose lands run on the borders of our route between the other villages, and in the village I have already mentioned, whose name I do not know, I saw a very considerable area of land sown with seed bought with our gifts. I saw nearly every one of the men who cultivated the fields and questioned them; nearly every one had sown just about as much land as he could sow with the money given him and very little, if any, more. The crops were thriving, rice (the early or *bhadoi* rice not *jarhan*), maize, sanwar, arhar, seemed to be the principal varieties. The time for *bajri* sowing is not yet come.

The cattle were all or nearly all bought from the south, the land towards the jungles. The seed was almost without exception brought from marts on or close to the railway.

In the crops that were sown about Jubilee time it is now time to weed, and in many places weeding is in progress. But some, never satisfied, were complaining that the "Sarkar" had given seed-money and cattle-money, but had not given money to pay labourers for weeding. This is a natural want, but they ought all to be able now to have the necessary funds from their *mahajans* (money-lenders). The prospects are now favourable and the crops promise well. A *mahajan* will give advances without demur under such circumstances.

It was quite remarkable to me that in every case I came across the gift had been spent precisely in the way intended. The district officers have orders not to enquire into the disposal of the gifts, and it would seem that there is no need for them to do so; they are being well used.

I was much struck with the good result of that 'Object IV' money.

No detailed reports have as yet been received of the distribution of money-grants under Object IV in Madras and Bombay, but throughout the rest of India (including Burma, from which province very interesting reports have come), there is a consensus of testimony as to the care taken to distribute the money, and the good use made of it. So far only few cases of want of attention to the selection of proper subjects for relief have come to notice.

That attempts are made by undeserving persons to partake of the charity will have been noticed already, and a native gentleman in the Indian Civil Service, after expressing what seems to him the great merit of the Fund, *viz.*, Attempts by undeserving persons to obtain relief.



that it helps deserving people whom the Government leaves alone, quotes another striking case of the kind. He writes:—

Before funds from the charitable relief society were available, cultivators and the better class of villagers used often to tell me referring to the dole given under Article 54, Famine Code, that the "Sarkar"\* was helping the Chamars,† Kols‡ and other coolies, but that the better classes were left without help. With the liberal help now given there is a feeling of deep gratitude among the masses. Only the other day a big "merchant" of this neighbourhood told me that, had the Sarkar not done what it did in helping all classes all round, there would have been another "bharat". This was a reference to the great battle of the Mahabharata in which, according to popular Hindu belief, millions were engaged and but few survived.

In distributing such large sums, as was to be expected, one met with instances of fairly well-to-do people attempting to pass themselves off as paupers deserving of relief. I remember one instance in which an old man came up to my hut along with the tenants of a village. He was the most clamorous of the whole lot, and the professional beggar's whine that he from time to time emitted was simply perfect. He was dressed for the part, in other words, wore almost nothing, and constantly repeated that he had no plough-cattle and no seed, nor the means to buy any. I thought his a case deserving of help and began asking him a few questions. I noticed, however, that the villagers assembled there seemed immensely amused at my proceedings, and many of the younger ones could hardly control a smile. This made me suspicious, and I made enquiries from the patwari, who told me that the applicant for charity was the mahajan (money-lender) of the village, and that all the principal tenants of the neighbourhood owed him money.

In bright contrast with the above, was a poor Chamar, who, when he came up to the tahsil at Karwi, refused to take the Rs 10 awarded him, on the ground that he did not want to take "charity". He said he had come because he thought the Sarkar was going to give him *takavi* (a repayable advance at an easy rate of interest), and simply refused to take charity.

In some cases the villagers themselves put forward as entitled to relief persons who are not, according to English ideas, a suitable class to select. An officer writes from the Punjab:—

One curious thing which was very noticeable was that, as the names were submitted after consultation with the village 'lumbardars'§ in many cases the villagers thought the proper thing to do was to submit the names of 'fakirs' and bairagis,¶ and thus get the fund to do their charity for them. There is a custom in this district by which in many villages holy men are given a patch of land for their support, and the revenue is paid by the village. The above were probably people supported in this way. I refused every application of this kind.

The contrast drawn by the merchant in the last narrative but one, between the treatment by the Government of beggars and low castes, compared with those who possess some property has, it appears, been a common theme in the rural society of India during the famine. For instance, another officer from the Punjab observes—

The recipients of relief at town distributions do not inspire that sad sorrow which touches human hearts. Professional beggars, many of them, and the rest but nameless items, they squeak and gibber and quarrel and wrangle for their doles. An unlovely sight at best, *but* "no one must die." The Deputy Commissioner is as responsible for the death of the scurviest beggar in the bazaar as of the stricken landholder, who appeals to the emotion by the loss of his land and with it of his good name. And yet it could not be otherwise, though the native understands it not. 'The ways of the Sarkar,' said a broken Jat, who had been forced to mortgage his all for his daily bread, 'are wonderful, it cherishes the banya and will not suffer the death of a chamar. But we zaminders are not cared for, because we have still some land to mortgage.' The criticism is unjust of course, but there is truth beneath it.

The demeanour of the recipients of the Fund's bounty under Object IV seems to have varied a great deal, but to have been generally impassive, as described above in the Collector's and Commissioner's accounts quoted on pages 51 and 52. An Assistant Collector in the N.-W. Provinces writes in the following terms:—

The attitude of the first recipients was that of hopeful incredulity. They evidently could hardly believe that money was really given to them and would never be demanded

\* Government.

† Leather dressers, a very low caste.

‡ An aboriginal tribe.

§ Head men.

¶ Religious mendicants.

back. When this was thoroughly understood, their demeanour was that of men to whom the vagaries of their rulers were as a closed book, but who had no objection to profiting thereby. The Sirkar\* doubtless had some deep and probably nefarious object in thus scattering money broad-cast, but Rs in the hand was worth Rs20 in the distant future, and the sinister motive, whatever it was, might, after all, miss the mark. Hence they accepted the money, the only drawback being that the amount was usually small. Many, like *Oliver Twist*, asked for more. Expressions of gratitude were very rare; but the faces of most of the recipients, as they took their departure, seemed to indicate that, in their own estimation, they had done rather a good stroke of business in coming.

Another Assistant Collector in the same province gives much the same account :—

The demeanour of the recipients might be described as complacent, and, I am afraid, the irritation of those who received nothing was more pronounced than the gratitude of their more needy and fortunate brethren. There were numerous cases, however, in which gratitude was as heartily expressed as it was deeply felt, whilst in other cases the tight clutch with which the open hand closed on the counted rupees, the apprehensive glance at the distributor and the speedy retirement from his office, lest he should change his mind and order some of the rupees to be refunded, showed, in combination with the tattered clothes of the recipients, that a real case of want had been met.

The raiyat of the Central Provinces in no way differs. The Honorary Secretary of the Raipur Committee says :—

The Indian cultivator is not a demonstrative person, but still at the same time some of the younger, and therefore, perhaps, more enthusiastic, of the relieving officers have expressed their surprise at the very undemonstrative way in which they have received their free gifts of grain or cash; indeed, so improvident and thriftless is the average cultivator, and so heedless of the future, that doubtless he would have been more pleased could he have received a loan to the full extent of his requirements rather than a free gift of the half: about future payment he would not have wasted a thought.

A Native Deputy Collector thus accounts for their attitude :—

The recipients naturally seemed grateful. Two or three first recipients said they would always be praying for Malika Shahzad† and Angrez Bahadur.‡ If the rest said nothing, or did not even make a salaam, their silence did not, to my mind, imply ungratefulness. The fact is that the Indians have long forgotten their old ways, and are ignorant of new modes of expressing their gratitude to sovereignty, and perhaps they consider silence to be the safest thing.

The same gentleman adds that the gifts to tenants were not looked on with unmixed satisfaction by their landlords, who even grudged it and attributed the charity to unworthy motives :—

Some zamindars envy the tenants' lot: they thought they too were entitled to some sort of help. By zamindars I mean persons owning villages, or significant parts of villages, and not the petty landlords holding a few plots who can hardly be distinguished from tenants. I told the zamindars the revenue had been suspended in several cases, and that no possible help would be withheld from them if necessary.

Unworthy motives ascribed for giving liberal charity.

A second Native Deputy Collector, while describing the joy of the villagers who received the charity, also admits that ulterior motives were attributed to those who gave it, that is to say, by the towns-people who did not participate:—

The scene was a very interesting one when the poor cultivators were counting the money in front of my table. I noticed in several instances that they were so overjoyed that they forgot to tie the money in their sheets and dhoties, and keeping it in their hands stared at my face. I asked what was the matter with them: they said that if this money had not been shown to them by the "data log" (donors), they would have been in great difficulty in making arrangements for seed, etc.

A few cases were noticed by me in which the people quietly received the gift without any expression of gratitude, and they were mostly residents of the villages close to the town. They did not appear to me to value the relief so much as those residing in the villages far from it. Two Thakurs of Mauza Pawansa refused to receive the relief on the grounds that they were Rajputs, and would not accept charity, and their names had been entered in the list without their knowledge. The Thakurs were very poor, but on account of family pride they refused the charity. As far as I have been able to study the feelings of the people, the majority of them appeared to be exceedingly grateful to the donors. Lately some two of the towns-people asked me if the funds out of which the relief has been given includes the subscription raised by the Russians to relieve the sufferings of the people of this country. I told them that it was purely the bounty of the people of England, and nothing was received from Russia\* or any other country.

There had been, of course, rumours prevailing in the district before the distribution of the relief that the Amir was coming on a pilgrimage to Ajmere with some 100,000 men, but these rumours subsided in a few days. I think the distribution of the relief has led some towns-people to believe that the relief has been given to gain the favourable opinion of the people, but such feelings are absent from the minds of the rural population living at a distance from the town.

From this and other reports it is clear that in this district designing persons had endeavoured to poison the minds of the simple cultivators, and discredit the charity.

Some officers, it will be noticed, discovered a little sense of thankfulness. An English officer writes also from the same district as the last:—

I was certainly struck with the change of countenance in the majority of cases. I had a few thick-headed men before me who stared at me as I delivered myself, and who simply shook their heads. But the bulk of the cultivators showed their agreeable surprise when they discovered they were not required to refund the money at some future date, and they even appeared to realize a sense of gratitude towards the donors; that they went home happier, there was not even a shadow of doubt.

And numerous reports from native officials, couched, no doubt, in slightly hyperbolic language, testify to the real gratitude of the raiyats. After all, the cultivator in every part of the world is usually a silent, undemonstrative person, little given to transports of either joy or sorrow.

The Committee have not as yet received any accounts of the distribution of relief in kind, but the following is a description by the Vice-Chairman, taken from his "Notes on Tour," of the way in which cattle are given away in Bijapur:—

The first to be called up were two sturdy fellows who owned 24 and 16 acres respectively of good land and who had lost all their bullocks. They signed an agreement each to allow the other to use the bullocks in turn, and then were told to go and choose a pair between them. Naturally they chose the best, a very good pair indeed, and, impassive as the native always is, they found it impossible to disguise their intense pleasure, stroking and patting the bullocks continually as if they loved them. In addition to the bullocks each man was given a sum which would enable him to feed his animal for two months at the rate of two annas a day, besides a few bundles of grass. Each also received an advance of Rs 5 for buying seed, which would enable them to sow 10 acres a piece, this being the outside limit Mr. Barrow can afford. Similar arrangements were made with 13 others, each being given one bullock to share with another. One man, who had 24 acres, had lost the whole of his cattle. Another had lost two pairs of bullocks, all that he had. A poor widow, who cultivates 28 acres, had lost her only pair as well as a buffalo. The bullocks distributed had been purchased outside the district through the kind assistance of the Government officers and also by voluntary helpers. They were expensive ones, as the cost of transit to the centre of the district and their subsequent feed had raised the average price of a pair to Rs 55. Up to date 654 had been purchased and distributed over the distressed talukas at an average of Rs 31. All of them will be given away either by the Collector himself personally, or by

\* This is an error. The Central Committee have received generous contributions amounting to Rs 8,159-2-6 from Russia.

one of his Assistants or Deputies. Each bullock is branded "R. F." (*i.e.*, Relief Fund) on the quarter before it is parted with, and the recipient agrees not to sell it or give up his land for six months. Mr. Barrow, who was supervising the operations from the terrace of the palace, then addressed the crowd, for a great many spectators and would-be recipients had assembled, explaining clearly that the bullocks were a free gift, bought with money which charitable persons in England and foreign countries had, out of pity for the sufferers from famine, sent to India in aid of the distress. They were not gifts from the Government. The recipients, all stolid-looking bucolics, were asked if they understood, and replied that they did so, and that the bullocks were "dharm" *i.e.*, a gift made from religious motives, as distinguished from beasts for the purchase of which the Government advances money and recovers it afterwards. Mr. Barrow said that the distribution would go on daily for three days, and that would dispose of three or four circles, *i.e.*, about 40 villages.

The reason why cattle are distributed in the Deccan and also in parts of the Central Provinces instead of giving the raiyats the money to buy them, is partly because, owing to the great mortality, animals had to be bought and imported from a distance and fodder to be supplied, partly to ensure the money being properly spent, and partly because by lending the bullocks out, as has been done in some instances, to the village community, they cannot be seized for debt.

In the black-soil tracts of the Deccan grass is not allowed in the fields, Fodder supply. and the country presents the aspect of a vast black plain. Hence cattle must be fed almost entirely upon straw, and when that fails they die. Therefore, independently of the strenuous and successful exertions made by one Government, that of Bombay, to lay down hay from the forests at the railway stations, or of the Provincial Committee of Madras, on a smaller scale, to import rice-straw into the distressed districts, District Committees both in Madras and Bombay have themselves bought up fodder and distributed it *gratis* or at a low price. Another extract from the Vice-Chairman's "Notes" illustrates what is being done in making grants of fodder and cattle in the Sholapur district:—

Up to the end of May the Committee had spent Rs26,947 on the purchase of fodder partly on grass received from the Forest Department and partly on "*karbi*" or "*juari*" straw, which merchants imported from Nizam's territory. The Sub-divisional Officer arranges the allotments on lists made by village-officers and checked by the Circle Inspectors and Mamlatdars, and the Assistant Collector examines the circumstances of every applicant before making a grant. Mr. Weir, an Assistant Collector, said that, when he was travelling, he always had lists of recipients with him and made enquiries whether the fodder had been used for the men's own cattle or not. Large numbers of cattle have been preserved owing to these gifts of fodder. Up to date 1,163 bullocks have been purchased at a cost of Rs20,323, *i.e.*, for 17½ rupees each, much cheaper than in Bijapur; but up to the 31st May only 200 had been distributed. A good many have been purchased locally or even obtained gratis from persons unable to keep them any longer, and are being fed up for distribution later. The sum expended on seed is Rs6,929. Now that rain has fallen, a good many animals will be brought from other districts for sale, and many more purchases will be made. Here opinion is entirely in favour of making grants under Object No. IV in kind and not in cash. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Weir, said that whenever he goes into a village the people surround him, entreating him to give them grass and cattle. He always examines the village-books to see what land they possess, enquires what property and cattle they have left, and selects those who are most distressed and have lost all their credit with the local banya. He never makes gifts of cattle to persons who have any of their own remaining, but gives fodder sometimes to preserve those which are still left. He distributes orders on the grass depots at the railway stations for grants of fodder which will be adjusted when the grass accounts are made up by the Forest Department at the expense of the Charitable Fund. Occasionally he gives such orders on behalf of Government after the manner of *takavi*, when he considers that the cost can be ultimately recovered from the raiyat. All gifts of fodder from the Charitable Fund are made out-and-out. Fodder is now so expensive that the Executive Engineer told me he had to pay Rs1 a day for *karbi*\* to feed one horse, the cost of grass in ordinary years being Rs8 a month.

In the Central Provinces rice and other seed has been imported largely from Sambalpur, where the crops did not fail, both for distribution to the poor in the highlands, where no dealers exist, and also in the plains. The same precautions are taken as in the case of gifts in cash to ensure that only those are relieved who are in real need.

\* Straw of *juari* the great millet.

Rebuilding and  
repair of houses.

In the great Deccan Famine of 1876-77 considerable sums were given for the repair and rebuilding of houses. But in 1897, the raiyats have scarcely anywhere needed this assistance; mainly because they have become better-to-do in the last twenty years and live in more substantial houses. In isolated cases of fire or flood, however, grants have been made, and it is believed also that in the very distressed parts of Bundelkhand they have been aided to buy tiles for the annual repair of their roofs. But detailed accounts of this kind of relief have not yet reached the Central Committee.

Office and mis-  
cellaneous expen-  
diture.

The Committee will reserve an account of outlay incurred in administering the Fund till their next report. It is sufficient to state, meanwhile, that the expenditure has been of a trifling character, owing to the vast amount of voluntary assistance that has been received on every side.

### CONCLUSION.

Conclusion.

This report must now conclude. In the words of an officer, the account of whose work is before the Central Committee, "How much good the money has done and will do, no one can ever know." The Central Executive Committee have studiously refrained from reciting any of the horrors of the famine, though the reports which have been received afford much sad evidence of their existence. As the Secretary of State himself observed in his speech at the Mansion House, "Whenever famine visits India, it exacts a heavy death-toll." At a time like this when so many millions are involved in want and privation, it is impossible to prevent much acute suffering, even though the Government and its officers and those who are distributing the Charitable Fund, make every effort that is, humanly speaking, practicable to ward off or to mitigate it. The Central Committee know that the exertions of every one engaged in either Government or charitable relief have been unremitting, and the success achieved surpasses all previous experience of famine. While, therefore, they are compelled to agree with a gentleman who wrote in a note for the Committee on the 26th May that "No picture can overdraw the horrors of the famine stricken, nor can any one realise the accumulations of protracted misery that is being suffered in India to-day," they feel that everything has been done that could be done, and that sensational accounts should therefore be eschewed.

Central Com-  
mittee's grateful  
acknowledgments  
of assistance.

In Appendix E\* will be found an abstract of the financial position of the Central, Provincial and District Committees combined up to 31st July 1897. Another report will, it is hoped, be submitted in January 1898 after complete accounts and returns are received from Provincial Committees, by which time, as the Committee trust, the famine will be generally ended. The Chairman and Members of the Committee desire, however, to take this opportunity of returning their grateful thanks to all who have assisted them, and especially to those who, in the midst of severe labours and anxieties, have written accounts of the manner in which the fund is being distributed for their information and that of the subscribers. They beg also to offer their respectful acknowledgments to His Excellency the Viceroy and to the Government of India for the warm and sympathetic support ever rendered to them and for the pecuniary assistance given to them, and they also thank the Governments of all the distressed provinces for the information they have freely rendered to the Central Committee, and the counsel and aid which they have accorded to the Provincial and District Committees. Finally, to the Lord Mayor of London, the Governor-General of Canada, as well as to every one who has assisted in raising funds in the United Kingdom and all over the world, and also to each one of those who have so munificently subscribed, they beg, in the name of the distressed people of India, to offer their most grateful and hearty thanks.

FRANCIS W. MACLEAN,

*Chairman.*

*September 6th, 1897.*

\* Not reprinted. Figures up to 31st October will be found at Appendix G, page 136.

## **APPENDICES.**



## APPENDIX A.

*(Vide pp. 2 and 4.)*

Despatch from Government of India to Secretary of State for India, No. 64, dated Calcutta, the 23rd December 1896.

MY LORD,

WE understand that the Lord Mayor of London, the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, and others have been in communication with your Lordship on the subject of opening subscription lists in England in connexion with the distress which is now threatening India. We feel assured that the suffering which, in spite of all that the Government may do to relieve it, must necessarily be in store during the next few months for many millions of Her Majesty's subjects, will deeply move the sympathies of the British public; and we are convinced that it needs but an indication on your Lordship's part that money will be gratefully received and can be usefully applied, to ensure a generous response from that liberality of which India has already had experience, and of which she still preserves a grateful recollection. We therefore deem it right to place your Lordship in possession of our views on the subject without further delay.

2. On a former occasion, when Southern India was suffering from famine in 1877, a sum of something like 700,000*£*. sterling was collected in England to be applied in India to the alleviation of distress. The application of this money led to a correspondence between Lord Lytton's Government and the Secretary of State of that time, which terminated with Lord Cranbrook's Despatch No. 46, dated 16th May 1878, and which the Famine Commissioners had before them when they discussed the subject in paragraphs 187 and 188 of their report. In the course of that correspondence it was laid down "that the Government is responsible, as far as may be practicable, for the saving of life by all the available means in its power," and that "it is not proper or expedient that the Government should ask for private subscriptions to supplement its own expenditure on "famine, especially as it is clear that such subscriptions can make no appreciable difference" in the amount of an expenditure which must be reckoned by millions. To these principles we steadfastly adhere. To invite subscriptions which are to be spent in the performance of a task for which we have undertaken the responsibility, would be to invite them for the relief of the Indian exchequer—an end towards which we could neither ask nor receive contributions with propriety. For this reason we think that anything that might bear the appearance of an appeal for assistance on the part of the Government of India to the people of England, should be scrupulously avoided as being liable to serious misconception.

3. To ask, however, is one thing, and to receive with gratitude and apply to the best possible advantage money which may be spontaneously offered is another. As Lord Lytton wrote in 1877: "while it is not desirable, in the circumstances above mentioned, for the Government itself to take any part in the collection or distribution of subscriptions, every encouragement should be given to the spontaneous flow of private charity." There is, as we shall presently show, ample scope for the operation of private charity outside the definite task of saving people from starvation which the Government has taken upon its own shoulders. And should the English people at any time think fit to send of their benevolence aid to those who are in distress, not only will it be most welcome and most useful in the mitigation of very real suffering, but the fact will be of the greatest political value, as tending to draw together in the bond of sympathy the peoples of the two countries. We would prefer, however, that anything that may be in contemplation in the shape of public organisation for the collection and receipt of subscriptions should be deferred till the situation has more definitely declared itself; and we have already suggested this to your Lordship in our telegram of the 17th December.

If the winter rains wholly fail us, India will be involved in a calamity which will, we believe, equal if not transcend in magnitude any similar calamity that has befallen her during the present century. If, on the other hand, they are timely and plentiful, the area in which serious famine may be anticipated, though still large in itself, will be by comparison small; while a large part of the tracts which are still in danger will probably escape anything worse than that distress, in itself sufficiently serious and widespread, which high prices must occasion among the poorer classes of labourers and artisans, and others with incomes fixed in cash. At the present moment, save in parts of the North-Western and Central Provinces, we have present with us nothing more serious than distress which is, however, slowly deepening into famine; while whatever relief may come to us in the shape of rain must come within the next few weeks. Thus, we shall shortly know with some certainty whether the calamity is to be of the gravest magnitude, or, if limited, of still very serious gravity. In either case contributions will be welcome. But if anything in the shape of an invitation is to be addressed to public charity, it would, we think, be well to postpone it until the case for assistance can be stated more definitely, and (should the worst befall us) more powerfully than is at present possible.





Thirdly : *in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official inquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved.*

The feeling of the sacredness of the "purdah" or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty, the existence of distress of this nature.

Fourthly : *in restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*

The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer.

### Enclosure No. 2.

Sketch of the organisation which is suggested for the collection and administration of private subscriptions :—

- (1) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee for the provision and administration of charitable relief, to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each province likely to be affected by famine to be invited.

The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee consisting of not more than \_\_\_\_\_ members to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee.

The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be—

- (a) To receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed the "Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897."

- (b) To apportion these moneys between the different provinces.

- (c) To arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.

- (2) A Committee to be formed in each province which will receive the moneys apportioned to that province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval of the Local Government.

- (3) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.

- (4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

### Enclosure No. 3.

Circular No. F. 166-2, dated the 22nd December 1896.

From Denzil Ibbetson, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR,

WITH endorsement No. 1323—1332, dated 28th June 1878, in the Public Works Department (Famine) of the Government of India, was forwarded certain correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject of the collection and administration of the contributions of private charity for the relief of distress in time of famine. I am now to forward, in continuation of that correspondence, and for the information of a copy of a despatch which is being addressed to the Secretary of State on the same subject.

2. The Governor General in Council is of the opinion that the same general principles should, so far as they are applicable, be applied in the case of the charity of the Indian public as have been laid down in the case of contributions from England. Individual and purley local benevolence will of course follow its own course. The evils which may arise from its faulty administration, if it should assume any considerable magnitude, are discussed in paragraph 187 of Part I of the Famine Commission's Report. But there will seldom be any difficulty in dealing locally with such cases.

3. When, however, any general public appeal is made for money to be expended throughout the province or throughout India, the same considerations apply in the main as in the case of English charity. Government officials may very properly associate themselves with such an appeal; but it must be made clear that they do so merely as sympathising with, and sharing in the feelings of benevolence that have suggested the appeal, and that they are in no sense its author; that it is spontaneous, and not officially prompted or promoted. As regards the question whether the time for such an appeal has arrived in any province, the point must be determined in each case in view of local conditions. Should it at any time be decided to make such an appeal, the objects to which private charity is to be devoted should be clearly defined so as not to trench upon the field of Government operations; and it should be made clear that Government reserves to itself such power of control as may be necessary to ensure the fulfilment of this condition.

I have, etc.,

DENZIL IBBETSON,  
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

Despatch from Secretary of State to Governor-General of India in Council, No. 10 (Revenue), dated 15th January 1897.

MY LORD,

ON learning from your Excellency that the probable extent of the famine could now be defined, and that public subscriptions were being invited in India, I informed the Lord Mayor of London that your Government gratefully accept his offer to open a Mansion House Fund for subscriptions in aid of the relief of sufferers from famine in India; and on the receipt of your letter, No. 64 (Famine), dated the 23rd December 1896, I have communicated to His Lordship your views regarding the object, to which private charity can best be devoted, and regarding the way in which charitable funds can best be administered. Since the month of October, your weekly telegrams have kept me informed the condition of affairs, while your present despatch, and your detailed telegram of the 16th January 1897, give the latest information concerning the extent of the calamity and the measures that have been taken for the relief and mitigation of suffering.

2. The famine has been caused by the absence of the usual rainfall during part of the autumn of 1896. Over a great part of India no rain fell from the middle of August to the middle of November, during which period more than one-third of the year's rainfall is usually expected. The failure of the rains stunted or destroyed the growing autumn food crops, such as millets, rice and pulse, the yield of which on unirrigated lands is estimated to range from nothing to nearly half an average crop. The irrigated autumn crop lands, about 14 per cent. of the whole, are expected to yield about three-quarters of an ordinary harvest. The drought also prevented or impeded ploughing and sowing for the spring crops, such as wheat, barley, gram and pulse. The effect of the failure upon the people was aggravated, especially in the North-West Provinces and the Central Provinces, by the circumstance that food-stocks had been reduced and the resisting power of the people had been impaired by previous short harvests.

3. In the month of October all the Local Governments considered the situation and made preparations for meeting the calamity in the several ways prescribed by the Famine Codes. The great extension of railways and the increase in the irrigated area made the country and the people better able to resist famine, while the existence of the Famine Codes and the preparations made under those Codes placed your Government and your officers in a better position for administering timely relief than they had been on any previous occasion. During October the commoner food-grains became dearer over a great part of India than had ever been known before at that time of the year and over so great an area. In 74 districts the cheaper kinds of grain were dearer than ten seers per rupee. The detailed reports which have reached me from the several provinces show that in the North-West Provinces, Oudh, and Bengal timely and complete preparations had been made; while in the Punjab, where pressure was less severe, in Bombay, where the need arose later, and in Madras, where subsequent rainfall removed cause for anxiety, adequate precautions appear to have been taken.

4. At the beginning of November it was apparent that, if the cold weather rainfall should be wanting, there must be serious famine over a large area of India, inhabited perhaps by 80 to 90 millions of people, and that it would be most severely felt in the North-West Provinces, in four districts of which the famine organisation had been fully tried, and had achieved a very satisfactory success during the previous season of 1895-96. But the situation was much relieved by the rainfall of November, which secured a full winter harvest over the greater part of Madras and Mysore; and which spread in an unusual way to the Deccan, the Central Provinces, and Northern India. In December and January also, cold weather showers have fallen over Central and Northern India, over Bengal and over parts of Bombay. The sowings for the spring crops have everywhere been extended, though the breadth of these crops is reported to be still considerably short of

the normal area. The spring crops, however, where they have been sown and have germinated, are said to be practically safe; and it is certain that by April next a large addition will have been made to the food-supply of the people over the greater part of the affected area. In some tracts, however, such as North Behar, and some of the districts in the Central Provinces and Oudh, where the people depend mainly upon the autumn harvest for their food, the relief given by the spring crops will be less considerable.

5. According to your latest information on the 10th January the position was that famine was felt or expected over districts inhabited by about 37 millions of people, while more or less distress was feared over other tracts containing 44 millions. In British India the expected famine areas and the distressed areas appear to be distributed somewhat thus :—

	FAMINE.		DISTRESS.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Square Miles.	Population.
Punjab . . . . .	16,800	4,139,000	30,100	6,559,000
North-West Provinces . . . . .	26,200	11,273,000	50,600	26,013,000
Bengal . . . . .	6,700	5,281,000	9,900	8,265,000
Burma . . . . .	2,600	212,000	8,600	555,000
Madras . . . . .	8,500	1,206,000	—	—
Bombay . . . . .	43,000	7,009,000	9,300	2,064,000
Central Provinces . . . . .	60,200	7,824,000	13,200	1,019,000
TOTAL . . . . .	164,000	36,944,000	121,700	44,475,000

7. In the famine areas full relief organisation under the Famine Codes either has been or is being established as need arises; and in the distressed areas relief works have been or are being opened in order to test the extent of the pressure. If hereafter in parts of the distressed area famine should appear, the relief organisation will be at once extended.

6. The number of people in receipt of relief during the first week of January was 1,200,000, of whom about 248,000 were receiving gratuitous relief. It is expected that these numbers will increase until April; during March and April pressure will, it is hoped, abate in tracts where the spring harvests over large areas prove good; but in some parts the numbers on relief may go on increasing until the end of May. And in no case will anxiety be over until favourable rains have fallen in July and August next.

Besides organising relief works and the distribution of gratuitous relief you have sanctioned suspensions of revenue where pressure is greatest; you have made available for irrigation as much water as possible; you have sanctioned large advances or loans to land-holders who are ready to give work on their estates, and to raiyats who are ready to dig wells; you have opened the Government forests to grazing in places where fodder is scanty, and you have reduced the railway rates for carriage of food.

8. You believe that the stocks of food are practically sufficient for the needs of the people, Burma and perhaps South India having a large surplus of food. You are relying on private trade to carry food to places where it is wanted, and you have made public your decision to abstain from any Government interference with the operations of the grain trade. But you have given Local Governments authority to arrange through local dealers for sending food to any relief work or relief centre, where the supply of food is apparently running short. I do not gather that supplies of food are yet coming in to the distressed districts from Burma, Madras, or Siam; and I question if Indian prices are, as yet, high enough to attract wheat or even maize from the west. I observe that the Famine Codes provide that the relief wage, or the gratuitous dole, shall be fixed at the value of a certain ration of food on the spot; so that, if food becomes still dearer, the relief wage will be proportionately increased. I agree in your view, which was that expressed by the Famine Commission, that the trade, as a whole, can supply the food demand better and more effectively than Government could; and, if reliance is placed on the trade, its operations, so long as they are effective, must not be subjected to competition by Government agency. No doubt careful watch will be kept by your Government not only on the food supply generally, but its local distribution. The area in India possessing a surplus of food is unhappily not so extensive this year as it was in 1876-77.

9. I approve the orders you have given regarding the undertaking of canals and railways as relief works. I hope that local capitalists or local bodies will be found ready in many places to construct light railways under the liberal terms which you have offered in order to meet the present necessity. I understand that, if anywhere sufficient large relief works are not available in particular tracts, recourse will be had to village works, a system which appears to have been prosecuted very successfully in the Bundelkund relief operations of 1895-96. Whether for these petty works, or for other relief duties, a largely increased staff will certainly be required; and I gather that the Local Governments are taking early steps to organise a sufficient temporary staff of relief officers. In the Bundelkund report, I observed with satisfaction the excellent service done by Indians, official and non-

official, as well as by European relief officers, and I greatly regret that some of these excellent officers should have died or broken down in the struggle.

10. As I intimated by my telegram of the 28th October last, I shall be ready to sanction the expenditure needed to make your relief operations as complete and effective as possible. During a considerable number of years the Government of India has set apart a portion of its revenue to enable it more effectually to deal with such an emergency as has now arisen. You are therefore in a better position to provide the necessary funds for effectual relief without unduly burdening your finances. I am confident that public sentiment in India will support your Government in spending the public money ungrudgingly, though prudently, in the relief of distress. I can assure you of the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government and of your countrymen at home in the task before you.

11. On your Excellency and the officials in India must primarily rest the burden of battling with the grave calamity before us, and constant interference from home in the detailed working of the vast and complicated organisation you are controlling would be useless and mischievous.

12. It is, however, necessary that I should receive prompt periodical information as to the progress, adequacy, and results of these relief works, so that I may be able to judge and advise upon the general conduct and course of your operations.

13. The courage, decision and promptitude with which the outset of this visitation has been met by your Excellency and your coadjutors inspire me with every confidence and hope in the eventual success of your proceedings.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

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## APPENDIX B.

(Vide page 4.)

Report of the public meeting held at the Dalhousie Institute, Calcutta, on January 14, 1897.

THE public meeting, convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta, on a largely signed requisition, was held in the Dalhousie Institute on 14th January, to establish a fund for the alleviation of distress in those provinces of India which are suffering from famine. His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and the Institute was crowded. Amongst those present were the Ladies Elizabeth, Veronica, and Christian Bruce, the Marquis and Marchioness of Bredalbane, Mrs. Durand, Sir Alexander and Lady Mackenzie, the Bishop of Calcutta, the Chief Justice, Archbishop Goethals, Father Lafont, Messrs. M. C. Turner and S. E. J. Clarke, Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Raja Gobind Lall Roy, Maharaja Sir Norendro Krishna, Mr. H. C. Williams, Sir John Lambert, Raja Surja Kant Acharjya, Hon. Mr. C. C. Stevens, Mr. R. Steel, Mr. E. N. Baker, Rev. Father Marchal, Hon. Moulvie Mohomed Yusuff, Hon. Mr. Finucane, Hon. Mr. Bolton, Hon. Mr. Risley, Hon. Mr. Cadell, Hon. Sir Griffith Evans, Hon. Sir James Westland, Hon. Mr. H. E. M. James, Sir John Woodburn, Hon. Mr. Glass, Hon. [Mr. Glendinning, Hon. Mr. P. Playfair, Mr. Gayer, Dr. Simpson, Mr. Laurie Johnstone, Mr. Scaramanga, Hon. Mr. W. H. Grimley, H. M. Rustomjee, Mr. Ghosal, Mr. Abdul Rahman, Hon. Mr. Rees, Maharaja of Darbhanga, Hon. Mr. Chalmers, Prince Mahomed Bukhtyar Shah, Hon. Mr. Ananda Charlu, Hon. Mr. R. M. Sayani, Hon. Pundit Bishambur Nath, Hon. Mr. Joy Gobind Law, Mr. C. L. Tupper and Hon. Mr. A. Wallis.

Rai Bahadur Shew Bux Bagla, the Sheriff of Calcutta, on His Excellency the Viceroy taking his seat on the dais, declared the meeting open. He said : It is now my duty to read the requisition signed and sent to me by several prominent and leading citizens of Calcutta, and in compliance with it I have convened this meeting :—

Calcutta, 7th January. To the Sheriff. Sir,—We the undersigned hereby request you to call a public meeting of the inhabitants of this City, to take into consideration the measures necessary to organize public charity in view of the famine which is now causing such widespread suffering throughout the country.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, in moving that His Excellency the Viceroy be requested to accept the office of chairman of the meeting, said : On a grave occasion like the present, when, in view of the dire calamity which threatens the country, measures will be considered to bring relief to many millions of the suffering population of this vast Empire, it is certainly meet that the august representative of our Gracious Sovereign, whose kindly sympathy for Her Indian subjects is too well known, should preside, and we are truly grateful to His Excellency that, with the many and multifarious important calls upon his time and attention, he has been generously pleased to give precedence to the call of humanity. I beg to propose, gentlemen, that His Excellency the Viceroy be respectfully requested to occupy the chair.

Mr. C. H. Moore formally seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

## The Viceroy's Speech.

His Excellency the Viceroy, who, on rising, was received with cheers, then spoke as follows :—

Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We are met this afternoon under circumstances which I believe to be unprecedented. It is not that meetings have not been held before in Calcutta and elsewhere arising out of the distress of the people and for the purpose of calling to their aid the generosity of the charitable. If for twenty years the necessity has not arisen, I venture to say that none of those who have been responsible for the Government, none of those who, officially or unofficially, have studied the condition of the people of India, can have failed to recognise that in any single year the spectre of famine might present itself at our doors. The interest with which we watch the labours of the able gentleman at the head of our Meteorological Department testifies to an ever-present anxiety. Nor is this occasion unprecedented because of the criticism which the Government has encountered, or even of the nature of that criticism. Governments are made to be criticised, and, for my part, I have always thought that fair and honourable criticism affords valuable assistance which no Government can despise. (Applause.) But, where I think this occasion has no parallel, is the wide field over which our operations must extend. The meetings in Madras in 1877, in Calcutta in 1874, had to deal with distress which could not well have been more acute in the important areas affected ; but never before has the appeal for help come from so many directions. I hold in my hand telegrams from all the Heads of Local Governments expressing their cordial approval of this movement and promising their ready co-operation. This movement may, therefore, well be termed a national one, an appeal to all that, with that fact before us,

minor controversies should cease. Whatever differences of opinion may have existed henceforth let us have no gaps in our ranks, but face the future as one man. (Applause.)

I am emboldened to say this to you because I know I am repeating the desire of one whose earnest wish will have more weight than any words of mine. I am permitted to announce that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has been graciously pleased to become Patron of this Fund. (Applause.) It is Her wish that its operation should be conducted on local and imperial lines, and that fact unites us with our fellow-subjects in all parts of the world in one undivided and indissoluble phalanx. (Applause.)

It may be, nay it must be to all of us a matter of regret that the sufferings of Her Indian subjects must mingle with the memories of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's glorious reign; but if that is now inevitable, at all events there can be nothing more entirely consonant with the spirit of Her reign than the charity and good-will, imperial, all-embracing, which is the lesson our Sovereign has taught us. (Applause.)

I am reluctant to detain you at any length, but I think it incumbent on me to say a few words about the objects of the fund it is proposed to institute, and the means by which they may be attained.

I can quite understand that it is not easy for those unacquainted with the system under which Government works to appreciate the distinction drawn between the obligations

this division and definition of duties from the first will promote efficiency and prevent waste. The Central Committee, in the collection of subscriptions and in the determination of their allocation, will have enough to do to tax the energies of the most devoted workers, and a duty which only a body of a representative character, with the fullest sense of its responsibility, can adequately discharge. In the Provincial Committees they will find no rivals, but allies, who will bring to the whole system the elasticity on which its success will mainly depend.

I scarcely think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that it is necessary for me to promise the help and co-operation of Government and its officers in every department of this work. My honourable friend, Sir John Woodburn, last week paid a just tribute to the spirit in which local officers (by which I am sure he meant all local officers, Native and European) are meeting the call made upon them. We know by only too sad experience that they do not hesitate to risk health and strength, and even life itself, and I am confident that their assistance and co-operation will be readily and fully given towards employing to the best advantage the fund we are about to raise. !

Those who control public affairs and public money, must be content sometimes to appear cold and calculating, for it is part of their duty to ignore their personal feelings. But warm hearts beat under official waistcoats, and I believe few welcome an opportunity like this more than those who habitually wear the chains of official constraint. And what is this opportunity? I can only speak for myself, but I shall consider that I had ill used the advantages of the last three years if I could view, unmoved, the sufferings of a people whose patient and contented disposition, in a lot that has few pleasures and many hardships, has often filled me with admiration. (Applause.)

I rejoice to see a wave of sympathy sweeping away all distinctions of class or race or creed or opinion. (Applause.) The cry for sympathy that rings in our ears in this land, we know, finds a ready response in the busy streets of London, of Glasgow, and in the crowded manufactories of Lancashire, and will, I believe, not be heard without avail in rural village, the highland glen, or in any of the distant regions to which our countrymen have carried their energy and their patriotism. (Applause.)

It is a sympathy which is twice blessed—which blesses him that gives and him that takes—and as such I can safely leave it in your hands. (Loud and continued applause.)

### The Resolutions.

The Hon Mr. Playfair said: Your Excellency, Your Honour, Mr. Sheriff, Noblemen, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The first resolution which, with Your Excellency's permission, I have the honour to propose, requires no impassioned appeal to reach the hearts of those present at this meeting. While the general and seasonable rains that have recently fallen should do much to improve the winter crops and mitigate the calamity of a terrible famine, it is unfortunately unavoidably certain that great scarcity must prevail and bring with it severe privation and distress to many. The people of this country are frugal in habits and of a patient and enduring temperament. They have more than once shown that they can face and bear hardship, assisting each other as is so proverbially characteristic of the poor and only when their own efforts are exhausted, do they appeal for help, and they then turn instinctively to those resources of that paternal Government which have always been and are now being freely given. My Lord, the public revenue cannot be applied to a better purpose than saving the lives of those who pay it. But while the state can do so much, there still remains a great deal that may be supplemented by the beneficence of public charity. It may assist in supplying those auxiliary wants that may sweeten the dry crust provided by the Government ration, and make life endurable to this frugal and hard-working people. Thus public charity, as Your Excellency's Government has pointed out, may rescue orphans and provide for their maintenance during the period of distress. It may reach those whose social position, or the tenets of religion, make it difficult for them to obtain relief under the Famine Code. It may be usefully employed to give a fresh start in life by providing cattle or agricultural implements for those who have been compelled to dispose of their stock to procure food. And, I would add, it may assist in the movement of the people from one district to another for diversity of employment. There are no public poor-houses in India such as are known in England upon which the British public spend about twelve millions per annum, for, as I have said, the poor of this country take care of one another, and, therefore, in time of calamity, an appeal, such as the present, to public charity, is inevitable. The present appeal is not that of alms-giving. It is higher than that. It is rather the invocation of that benevolence of brotherhood dictated by the sublimest precepts of the religion of both Christian, Hindu and Muhammadan, and to which distressed humanity has a legitimate claim. It has gone home to the hearts of the British public and to the English-speaking races throughout the world, including that large army of merchants and traders whose daily vocations are so intimately associated with India. No trade of first importance is conducted in this country without the aid of native agency, and by the union of the resources of the West and the East, the external trade of this Empire has risen until it last year reached the very important commercial value of over 201 crores. While it has to be recognised that Landlords, Merchants, and Traders of this country are themselves severe sufferers from the failure of crops, and have already expended much money in alleviating distress, I still



believe that they will yet, of their liberality, add to their benevolence by supporting the charitable fund I am about to propose should be formed, but I look and rely upon voluntary aid from beyond India to raise this fund of relief to a position worthy of the great nation to which we belong. I have, therefore, the honor to propose:—

"That this meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country and contributions from abroad be thankfully received."

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Norendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., in seconding the Resolution, said: Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The failure of the rice crops, the staple food of the people of this country, owing to the cessation of rains in the month of October last, in certain districts of Bengal, and many places situated in the North-Western Provinces, is likely to create a famine, and as information has been received by Government that distress exists among the people on account of the non-production of food-grains required by them, it has wisely established relief charges under the superintendence of qualified officers for the purpose of organising relief works, on which people having no means of subsistence will be enlisted, buying food for their consumption from the amount of wages received by them. Government also generously proposes to afford gratuitous relief to men, women, and children, who are unable to work, and who are ashamed to be employed on these works. The formation of a charitable fund will strengthen its hands in affording relief to those who are precluded by the rules from obtaining help from the Government. I am glad to observe that the people of England have evinced a genuine sympathy for those of this country in their hour of need by voluntarily coming forward to our help, and the Lord Mayor of London would have long ago opened a fund of this nature if His Excellency the Viceroy had been apprised by the citizens of Calcutta of their desire to comply with His Lordship's wishes. We must express our grateful thanks to the Lord Mayor and the people of England for their humane offer of assistance. I am sure you will all be gratified to learn that a charitable fund has been formed in England, and that our Gracious Queen Mother, with her well-known love for her Indian subjects, has been graciously pleased to subscribe 8,000 rupees to that fund, thus setting an example for imitation to others. Our humblest and most respectful thanks are, therefore, due to Her Imperial Majesty.

are very numerous, which are largely inhabited by decayed communities. There are not only those whom the customs of the country prevent from appearing in public, but others whom traditional self-respect and pride prevent from being open applicants for relief except when they are urged by extreme necessity. Experience has shown that the relief of such persons is best arranged for with the aid of private funds managed by local committees working in concert with the Government, because an intimate knowledge of each applicant for relief is necessary for the economical distribution and apportionment of the funds. Past experience has shown how much such assistance is wanted, and what a blessing it brings to the unfortunate people who in times of difficulty stand in need of it. It is a well known fact that when distress is felt in the North-Western Provinces, a number of towns in the West suffer most, and in the East, where the agricultural conditions are somewhat different, the distress is less severe. There is ample scope for the efforts of private charity, and there can be little doubt that both in the West and in the East there will be an ample field for the benevolence of the public, and that, not only in those districts in which the famine is most felt, and in which the failure of the crops has been most complete, but the charity of the public will be most useful in those districts in which the need of the people arises chiefly from prevailing high prices, which have brought severe distress to those whose small incomes barely suffice for their support, even in ordinary seasons. Notwithstanding the responsibility assumed by the Government, the provinces which might be assigned to private benevolence are very extensive, and for my own part I think there is danger that even the most immediate and necessary duty of all, that of supplying the means of living to the public and those just removed from the labouring classes, will form a task which will tax, to a considerable extent, the labour and organisation which we have met this afternoon to initiate. In many districts in the North-Western Provinces subscriptions have been collected and relief is now being given on the lines which have been indicated in the resolutions of this meeting, and I am sure that in all provinces the prospect of help from beyond its immediate vicinity will be gladly and cordially welcomed.

His Grace Archbishop Paul Goethals, S. J., said: I have great pleasure in supporting the first resolution, which has been so eloquently moved by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Plzyfair, and ably seconded and supported by the speakers who followed him.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu said: Your Excellency, your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—With your permission I support this proposition. I do it most heartily and readily. Whatever may be my private opinion as to the opportuneness of this step, I have not the slightest hesitation to declare that we are not one day too soon in making the appeal to-day. The appeal, in the first instance, will go to the rich and well-to-do, but it should not stop there. I need not to remind my Hindu hearers that the relief of suffering is part of their lives. Their sacred books exhort them to acts of charity. It is to be remembered that the whole country is in the shadow of a great famine, and if salvation is to come, their appeal must be heard beyond the seas, and by every friend of humanity. There are millions of people on whom the Government could bestow a starvation existence, and they could not do better than to spend their money on them. Then we have to consider the poor, the fatherless, and those who are too proud to beg and too honest to steal. They have to thank the British public for the prompt response made to their appeal.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sayani then said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Mr. Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution. It is admitted now on all hands that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts. This day four weeks ago, a public meeting was held in my own City of Bombay, which meeting was presided over by our noble-minded and sympathetic Governor, Lord Sandhurst, and a fund for the relief of the distressed in the Bombay Presidency was formed at that meeting. The details of the distress prevailing at that time in my presidency were given at that meeting, and subsequent events have been, from time to time, narrated by the energetic and enterprising public press, and a lucid summary was given last Thursday at the Council meeting by the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn. I will not, therefore, take up your time by reiterating the facts connected with the distress, as you are now all well acquainted with them. I will only venture to impress on your minds the fact that, however ample be the resources of Government, however determined its willingness to support the sufferers, and however high its capacity to adequately perform this part of its duty, Government, as a Government, cannot possibly cope with the whole distress in all its bearings, and that there is always an ample scope for private charity to supplement the efforts of Government. In fact, a recourse to private charity is, therefore, advisable, and, at the present juncture, even indispensable; for you know that numbers of your countrymen are actually suffering from the distress, and dreadful are the tales of this harrowing and heartrending calamity. The number of sufferers is so large, and the places where suffering prevails are so numerous, that there is a widespread desire for appealing to private charity. Thousands of people are observed to be actually dying of sheer starvation, and prompt action has become absolutely necessary. Under the benign rule of our Government, preservation of life is considered—and rightly considered—a paramount duty, and when the lives of thousands and thousands of human beings are weighing in the balance, no time has to be lost in such an emergency, and vigorous action has to be taken. It is also advisable that Government should take part in such an appeal; in ordinary times, no doubt, it is always advisable that Government should restrict itself to its own duty as Government; but a crisis like the present one is

not an ordinary matter. Direful as is the present calamity, it is very near going to be the greatest calamity of this century, so far at least as this country is concerned. Government, besides being a Government, are, in such matters, the natural leaders of the country, in fact, its first and foremost citizens whose proud privilege it is to lead the van in the cause of humanity, and I have no doubt whatever that all of us here are, and the whole of the country behind us is extremely gratified to see His Excellency the Viceroy amongst us this evening, as the first citizen in this Empire, giving a powerful stimulus to this movement by his personal presence, which is a matter for deep congratulation. The burning question of the hour is to collect funds and to apply them to the relief of sufferers. For the reasons above-stated, I heartily support the resolution, and I trust the public will cordially respond to the invitation contained in this resolution by heartily supporting this movement and by generously contributing, each according to his means, to the fund which is proposed to be formed by this resolution, and I have no doubt that, poor as India is, my countrymen, who have been always noted for their charitable disposition towards suffering humanity, will do their best to respond to our appeal; and in this connection I will ask them to emulate the most excellent and praiseworthy example of His Highness the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who has, it is publicly stated intimated his readiness and willingness to contribute eight lakhs of rupees towards relief works, and, in addition thereto, to spend eight lakhs of rupees more to relieve distress as also to remit rents, if necessary, on his estate. The contributions collected in India, with the princely donations from England, will go far to relieve human misery in this country which Government cannot reach, and I heartily commend this resolution for your approval.

The Hon'ble Pandit Bishambar Nath said he had great pleasure in supporting the first resolution. It had been so strongly and forcibly moved, seconded, and supported, that he could say very little more to bring it to their notice. Since the Queen-Empress had been graciously pleased to set a noble example, it was high time, in the words of His Excellency, that the long arm of private benevolence should be outstretched for alleviation of distress in the famine-stricken provinces of India. The distress was greatest in the North-Western Provinces, from whence he came, and he gave his own testimony that Sir Antony MacDonnell was leaving no stone unturned in his efforts to relieve the people suffering from famine there.

The motion was then put and carried with acclamation.

#### Formation of a Committee.

His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, who was received with loud applause, in moving the second resolution said: Your Excellency, Your Honour, Mr. Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have the honour to move the resolution which stands in my name and which runs as follows:—

"That this meeting accepts the statements of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the fund; and resolves that a General Committee, composed of the following gentlemen\* be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund."

After the eloquent speeches that you have just heard, I do not think it necessary for me to inflict a very long speech on you, nor do I propose to do so, for I do not wish to enter into any controversial matter. I know that there are some who seem to think that the principles laid down in the *Government Gazette* of the 9th June did not go far enough, but I am not going to enter into the details of the question. I think that all of us are united in thinking that, however much some of us may disagree with regard to some matters of detail, it is much better for us to work in co-operation with the District officials and Local Governments, than to act independently. I think unanimity of action in a matter of this sort is likely to bear greater fruit than if some of us were to work independently. (Cheers). Then as regards the formation of local committees, I think there is a wide field for private and individual charity, and for local committees to work, and my opinion on this point was strengthened by a conversation I had with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, Sir Antony MacDonnell. I feel convinced that the Local Governments themselves are well aware of the difficulty that exists in finding out a certain class of persons, who, although they may be suffering from starvation, are still averse to seeking relief either at the poor-houses or by going to any of the relief works. To give relief to people of this class has been a matter of considerable anxiety, I know, to these two Local Governments, and I think the local committees can help the Government to a great extent in finding out this class of people. With these words, gentlemen, I will resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal, seconded the resolution. He said: May it please Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I can assure you it is with real diffidence—a quality which is not generally attributed to the members of my profession—that I rise to second this resolution, a diffidence arising from the fact that notwithstanding the kind, the almost too kind, hand of welcome which has been stretched out to me, I must be, to many of you, if not to most, nothing more than a

\* The list will be found at the end of the proceedings, page 73.

stranger, and upon an occasion of this sort I feel some diffidence in addressing a meeting at once so important in its object, so impressive in its composition, and so influential in its result. And that feeling of diffidence is rather enhanced when I find myself standing upon this platform, surrounded by gentlemen both here and in the body of the hall, gentlemen who have devoted their lives, their genius, and their ability to the aims and ambitions of India, to its statecraft and its government, its wants and requirements, and who by special experience are absolutely skilled in the great and the grave question which has collected us here to-day. But at the same time I beg to assure you of the great personal gratification I feel that upon this, the occasion of my first public utterance in your city, I am able to raise my voice conjointly with your own in the cause of suffering humanity. And, Sir, that gratification is increased when I find that my name has been coupled in this resolution with that of the distinguished Maharaja who has just addressed you, whose charity and princely generosity are so well known to you, proving as it does to me that in the great struggle in which we are engaged, European and native, native and European, will stand shoulder to shoulder and back to back against the common enemy, and will engage in the good work of charity and of generosity, irrespective of race or of caste or of creed. And Sir, as the head of the Judiciary in India, I venture confidently to predict from what I have heard and from what I have read that whatever may be the sufferings of our native fellow subjects, they will be borne with patience and with fortitude as a peace-loving and law-abiding people, and I am satisfied that whatever their sufferings may be, they will not make that an excuse for any organised infraction of the law. Now, Sir, one or two words as to the resolution. As we all know, good wine needs no bush and so good resolutions,—I had perhaps better not say good resolutions, because I have heard that we all make them and that we all break them,—I would rather say that a resolution in favour of suffering sufferers should be deemed as superior to all criticism. This resolution speaks for itself. It asks you to accept the statement of the Government, the position of which in effect is this that while as a Government it cannot ask for charitable help, it can give all the assistance it possibly can in distributing the funds which the charitable may subscribe. Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome this meeting. In olden times when the enemy was at the gate, beacon lights used to be lit on the mountain tops to tell of their coming. The enemy of famine is now at our gates. This meeting of to-night will light the beacon fire of charity and generosity, the glow of which will extend to Great Britain, to Australia, to Canada, and I trust to our cousins in the United States. I have no doubt that this appeal will go to the hearts of all the English-speaking races of the world, and will afford a practical illustration of the words of our great national poet, that one touch of nature makes the whole world akin. I read in the press—nowadays we read so much in the press—I read in the European press that it was suggested by reason of the delay of the Government of India in permitting an appeal to the people of Great Britain that the latter have become chilled in their sympathy, and that their subscriptions will not be forthcoming. I do not believe it, nor, gentlemen, do you. Depend upon it that where Her Majesty the Queen leads, her people will follow. I do not refer to her gifts to this fund in respect of any question of generosity, but I venture just to refer to it as a further illustration of that ever-living and ever-loving sympathy which she always displays towards you, whether the sufferer be resident within the ice-bound fields of Canada, or be a starving peasant on the burning plains of India. I cannot but regret that in this year of 1897, and you, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure will share it, I cannot but regret that in this year, one of the most remarkable in the annals of the British crown, the lustre of one of the brightest jewels in it, namely, the Empire of India, should be temporarily dimmed. But I hope with the effort we shall make that before the year is out the lustre may be restored to its pristine beauty. And, Sir, still another reason for welcoming this meeting. The news of it will travel with the celerity with which all news in India travels, from town to town, from village to village, from bazaar to bazaar, and it will convey to the suffering peasant in Bengal and to his almost starving brother in the plains of the Central Provinces the message, the most beloved message of hope. He will learn from this meeting that all that is powerful in India, all that is wealthy in Great Britain and her colonies, is banded together to assist and succour him, and this knowledge will implant in his breast a spirit of greater determination and of higher courage—a spirit of determination and courage which will enable him to grapple, and in a short time successfully, with the demon of famine which is stalking across your land.

His Lordship the Bishop of Calcutta said : Your Excellency, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—As speaker after speaker has risen to propose and support this resolution, I have felt deeply impressed with the fact that no words of mine are required in order to arouse a feeling of sympathy on behalf of this audience or the public in general. The Chief Justice has spoken of his very recent arrival among us ; but I have known Calcutta for the past 20 years, and I know that an appeal like this requires no resolution to commend it to your support. Your Excellency has spoken the word, and that is enough for us. I feel sure that every one of us will welcome the opportunity of showing our substantial sympathy with the suffering now prevailing. I will go so far as to say that I believe that should it unfortunately happen that this period of famine is likely to be very prolonged, I can confidently say, if Your Excellency shall call on us for a second contribution, we shall all of us be ready. (Cheers.) We speak of this as an appeal: it is rather an invitation which all of us will welcome, for I feel satisfied that all of us who have day by day read of the grievous accounts of the increasing distress, have again and again felt the

impulse to do something towards bringing our small quota of relief to bear upon the suffering. The Lieutenant-Governor alluded to the fact, and I was very glad to hear it, that small contributions are indeed to be invited. I may be permitted here to say that I have been wondering whether it was not my duty to call upon all the clergy in the Diocese, and to commend it to the Bishops in the other Provinces, that there should be regular periodical collections in the churches in order that sums should be received from people who could perhaps scarcely pay a very enormous subscription, and should Your Excellency at any time think it desirable that such collections should be made, a hint from you will be sufficient for me to put the machinery in motion. You will see that I am very deeply impressed with the fact that there is a universal desire to express our sympathy with Your Excellency, and with all those splendid and devoted men who are laying down their lives in the localities where the distress prevails, and also to express our appreciation of the way in which the rulers of Native States are meeting their responsibilities; and, above all, to express, if it were possible our deep feelings towards the poor sufferers throughout the land. It is one of the inscrutable dispensations of Providence that these calamities should fall upon us; but surely they have at least some good results if they bring about that unanimity of feeling and sympathy which makes us as has already been said, join hands to bring help to the sufferers wherever they may be found. It only remains for me, gentlemen, to ask you to make good the boast which I have made on behalf of the public of this great city; and, in conclusion, to remind you and them of the prayers we must offer to our Almighty Father that He may vouchsafe the return of those fruitful seasons to this land which will restore plenty and prosperity to the suffering districts in whose interest we are gathered together this afternoon.

Princee Bukhtiyar Shah said: There has been so much said that it hardly needs a word from me. I would only express, on behalf of the Muhammadan community, that they are all in full sympathy with this meeting. With these few words I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by the Maharaja.

The Hon. Babu Joy Gobind Law said: I have great pleasure in adding my humble support to the resolution now before you. The necessity of raising this fund has been dwelt upon by previous speakers, and the present resolution deals with the formation of a committee for the purpose of receiving funds and distributing them. This is a public subscription, and it is only right and proper that the public should have a voice in the disposal of the funds; but this can only be done by a committee, and it is for this reason that it has been proposed to form this committee. The names of the gentlemen who are to compose this committee are before you, and as they are all well known to you all, it is unnecessary for me to say anything to commend them for your acceptance. Therefore I only repeat that it gives me great pleasure to support the resolution.

### Vote of Thanks.

Mr. C. L. Tupper moved.

That a cordial vote of thanks be passed to His Excellency the Viceroy for presiding on this occasion and for his kindly accepting the official Presidentship of the General Committee.

In doing so he said: The resolution which stands in my name on the paper is not one with regard to which I need trouble any one with any arguments. I have no doubt that it will be passed, if possible, with greater unanimity than any resolution that has been passed to-day. But if you will pardon me for detaining you for a minute or two, I should like to make one or two remarks in connection with what has fallen from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

He said, in the first place, that he thought he was interpreting the sentiments of other local Governments beside Bengal in cordially supporting the present movement. If I may venture to speak for the Punjab, that local Government would entirely and fully adhere to the principle which Sir Alexander Mackenzie indicated. In the second place the Lieutenant-Governor mentioned, with special emphasis, one of the objects to which private charity might be devoted in times of famine. I venture to entirely agree with what he said on this point, and to illustrate it from my own personal experience within the last few weeks. I was touring near Shapur, not very far from Rawalpindi, and the distress experienced there is an illustration of the kind of distress to which reference has been made. That distress is what we call only partial, and it is among people who seek service in the army and also in the Civil departments of Government. There are many pensioners there who find themselves reduced to great distress, and there are also many others who, as Sir Alexander Mackenzie has said, did not like to come to the relief works because they were ashamed. Now what did the Deputy Commissioner do? He did on a small scale what is now to be done on a larger scale; he organised small local committees in five or six centres to receive private subscriptions, and he encouraged persons to form small committees and give relief according to their own personal knowledge. I think this shows that what Sir Alexander Mackenzie has pointed out is an important matter to be provided for.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Wallis said: I have the honour to second the resolution which is now before you, and that is to pass a cordial vote of thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy for presiding at this meeting, and I am sure that you will afford this resolution the support which it deserves. His Excellency's presence here is a sufficient proof that he really takes

the greatest interest in the movement which has been set on foot, and I am perfectly certain that it will result in alleviating the sufferings of many of our fellow-subjects. The fact of His Excellency taking the chair this afternoon, and also of his agreeing to act as President of the General Committee, will ensure the success of the movement and lead to large subscriptions being sent in. With these remarks I would ask you to accept this resolution.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in putting the vote of thanks to the meeting said: It has been moved, seconded, and supported that a cordial vote of thanks be passed to His Excellency for presiding on this occasion, and for his kindly accepting the official Presidentship of the General Committee; but before putting the resolution to the meeting, I would just like to say one word, and that is, it is only those who have been associated with His Excellency in the arrangement of the preliminaries of this meeting, who can understand the great care and attention that he has given to the details of the organisation; every phase of this scheme as it comes before the public was settled beforehand, and I feel very sure that whatever success it meets with, will be due to the great trouble and care with which His Excellency has prepared the scheme.

His Excellency the Viceroy said: Your Honour, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In acknowledging the approval with which this resolution has been received, I desire specially to thank the mover, Mr. Tupper, not only for what he has said, but for his attendance and also the other gentlemen who have attended this meeting from the Punjab. They have taken the most practical manner of showing the interest which their part of the Empire feels in the movement which we are initiating to-day, and I think it is perhaps consistent with that sympathy that the last telegram which was put into my hand before I came to the meeting was one from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to this effect:

"Clear the line. Excellent rain at Lahore all night; still pouring steadily; looks widespread." (Applause.)

I have only to say that, as His Honour has just said, I have taken a great interest in the arrangements for this meeting, and I shall take great interest in what I hope will be the success of the movement which we have now started. During the course of the meeting the first list of subscriptions was put into my hands, and I find that it already amounts to something like a lakh of rupees. (Applause.)

I have to announce, on behalf of the Chief Justice of Bengal, who has been good enough, as you are aware, to accept the Chairmanship of the General Committee, that he proposes to summon a General Committee to meet in this place to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock, to appoint an Executive Committee. This will show you that no time will be lost in getting to work, and with the assistance which we know is coming to us from home, I have no doubt that the movement will succeed. (Applause.)

The meeting then dispersed.

### Telegrams.

The following telegrams were received from Heads of Provinces relating to the institution of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund:—

From Governor of Madras. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"The movement for the organisation of Charitable Famine Relief Fund seems now to be called for and has my full sympathy."

From Governor of Bombay. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I am very glad Your Excellency is to preside at meeting for charitable aid for Famine. The object has my warmest sympathy. I will do my utmost to assist in Bombay."

From Lieutenant-Governor, N.-W. P. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I ask Your Excellency's permission to express my sympathy with the movement to raise a charitable fund for the further relief of distress in India. Although the State organisation supplies all relief which is substantially necessary, still there is much room for private charity in helping to alleviate the minor forms of distress. In the further alleviation of these, I gladly welcome the help of private charity, and I promise to the committee to be formed at to-morrow's meeting, the earnest and cordial support of this Government."

From Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab. To Viceroy.—"I most cordially approve of the movement for raising Charitable Famine Relief Fund which Your Excellency is now inaugurating."

From Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I heartily join with Your Excellency in hoping that Thursday's meeting will be a success. In the Central Provinces there is ample scope for large and most useful application of private charity outside of the ground covered by Government relief."

From Chief Commissioner, Burma. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I desire to express my sympathy with the object of the meeting to be held on Thursday, in order to start organization for receiving and administering public subscriptions for famine relief, which meets with general approval in Burma. A Famine Relief Committee has already been formed in Rangoon by certain native gentlemen, and a meeting of leading Europeans and natives will be held to-day to nominate members from Burma to serve on General Committee."

## General Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

The following is the list of names of the Officers and Members of the General Committee appointed by the second Resolution passed at the meeting held at the Dalhousie Institute (*Vide* page 74) :—

### *Patron :*

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN-EMPRESS.

### *President :*

H. E. The Earl of Elgin, G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor General of India.

### *Vice-Presidents :*

H. E. Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay.  
H. E. Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras.  
H. E. General Sir George White, V.C., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief in India.  
H. H. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.  
H. H. Sir A. P. Mac Donnell, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces.  
H. H. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.  
Sir Frederick Fryer, K.C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Burma.  
Mr. C. J. Lyall, C.S.I., C.I.E., Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.  
Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Assam.

### *Chairman :*

The Hon'ble Sir Francis W. Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal.

### *Committee :*

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta.  
The Hon'ble Sir James Westland, K.C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Sir J. Woodburn, K.C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Mr. M. D. Chalmers.  
The Hon'ble Major General Sir E. H. H. Collen, K.C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Mr. A. C. Trevor, C.S.I.  
Mr. R. J. Crosthwaite, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana.  
Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.  
Mr. T. J. C. Chichele Plowden, C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad.  
The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani.  
The Hon'ble Bishambhar Nath.  
Mr. J. P. Hewett, C.I.E.  
Mr. D. C. J. Ibbetson, C.S.I.  
Colonel W. S. S. Bisset, C.I.E.  
Major-General G. deC. Morton, C.B.  
Major-General A. R. Badcock, C.B., C.S.I.  
Surgeon-Major-General A. A. Gore.  
Surgeon-Major-General J. Cleghorn.  
Dr. J. W. von Waldthausen, Consul-General for Germany.  
M. A. Klobukowski, Consul-General for France.  
Lieut.-Colonel Gardiner, R.E., Agent of the East Indian Railway.  
Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Thornton.  
The Prince of Arcot.  
The Maharaja of Vizianagram, G. C. I. E.  
The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E.  
The Raja of Venkatagiri.  
Archbishop Colgan.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Rees.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Bhasyam Aiyangar.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Rajaratnam Mudaliar.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Rangiah Naidu.  
The Hon'ble Muhammad Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.  
Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot.  
Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliar.  
Colonel Moore.  
Mr. R. G. Orr.

Mr. Waljee Laljee Sait.  
 Mr. Cawasjee Eduljee Panday.  
 Mr. G. Subrahmanya Aiyar.  
 Mr. G. Cotton.  
 Mr. S. M. Moses.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. N. N. Wadia, C.I.E.  
 Mr. Ghelabhai Haridas.  
 Mr. Gobindji Thaketsay.  
 Mr. Harkisondas Naitamdas.  
 Dr. Bhalechandra K. Bhalewade.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Dharamshi.  
 Mr. Suleman A. Wahed.  
 Khan Bahadur Edalji Rastamji, Vice-President, Ahmednagar Municipality.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. J. R. Spence, I.C.S., Commissioner, Central Division, Bombay.  
 Mr. Elden, I.C.S., Commissioner, Southern Division, Bombay.  
 Mr. Charles, I.C.S., Collector, Ahmednagar.  
 Mr. Lamb, I.C.S., Collector, Poona.  
 Mr. Weir, I.C.S., Acting Collector, Sholapur.  
 Mr. G. D. Pante, Acting Collector, Bijapur.  
 Mr. Lakhamgowda Bhaskrabha Desai, Belgaum District.  
 Mr. Dorabji Padamji, the President of the Poona Municipality.  
 Mr. Virchand Dipchand, of Sholapur.  
 Archbishop Goethals.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. C. C. Stevens, C.S.I.  
 The Hon'ble Sir. C. G. Pael, K.C.I.E.  
 The Hon'ble Sir. G. H. P. Evans, K.C.I.E.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. P. Playfair, C.I.E.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. M. Finucane.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. A. Wallis.  
 The Venerable Wellere MacCarthy, Archdeacon of Calcutta.  
 The Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, K. C. I. E.  
 The Maharaja Bahadur of Giddohr, K.C.I.E.  
 Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore K.C.S.I.  
 Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E.  
 Maharaja Durga Churn Laha, C.I.E.  
 Mr. C. H. Moore.  
 Mr. Lawrie Johnston.  
 Mr. R. Steel.  
 Mr. H. B. H. Turner.  
 Mr. S. C. Sentamanga.  
 Mr. S. Finney.  
 Mr. G. Irving.  
 Mr. J. E. D. Ezra.  
 Mr. W. K. Fiddle.  
 Mr. J. O'B. Saunders.  
 Mr. H. C. Williams.  
 Mr. W. D. Cruickshank.  
 Mr. J. A. Toomey.  
 Sir W. Hudson, K. C. I. E.  
 Mr. G. Hemmery.  
 Mr. F. A. Moller.  
 The Revd. Dr. Macdonald.  
 Rai Jai Prokash Lal Bahadur, C.I.E.  
 Maharaja Gobind Lal Roy of Rungpur.  
 The Hon'ble Nawab Syud Amir Hussain, C.I.E.  
 Sahibzada Bucktiyar Shah.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Banerji.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Bose.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. Gurn Pershad Sen.  
 Rai Isser Chunder Mitter, Bahadur.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. Joy Gobind Law.  
 Nawab Ahsanullah Bahadur, C.I.E.  
 The Hon'ble Mr. Durgagati Banerjee, C.I.E.  
 Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee, C.S.I.  
 Raja Bun Behary Kapur.  
 N. N. Ghose, Esq.  
 R. D. Mehta, Esq.  
 Rai Shew Bux Bogla Bahadur.  
 Babu Kalinath Mitter.  
 Babu Norendranath Sen.  
 Babu Romanath Ghose.  
 Mahamahopadhaya Mohesh Chunder Nyayaratna C.I.E.



The Hon'ble Sir John Edgar, Kt., Q. C., Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature,  
N. W. P.  
Mr. J. Dwy, Judicial Commissioner, Oath.  
The Hon'ble Mr. J. J. La Touche, C.S., Senior Member, Board of Revenue,  
N. W. P.  
The Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper, C.I.E., President, Upper India Chamber of Com-  
merce.  
The Bishop of Lucknow.  
The Very Revd. Father Dargatz, Acting Archbishop of Agra.  
His Highness Maharaja Prabhu Narayan Singh, Bahadur, K. C. I. E., of Bikaner.  
Raja Lal Ram Pratab Singh, of Mandla, Alwar District.  
Raja Hari Raj Singh, of Kashipur, Moradabad District.  
Raja Satrajit Pratab Bahadur Sahi, of Tankuh, Gorakhpur District.  
Nawab Mumtazulaula Muhammad Faiyyaz Ali Khan of Bahara, Bulandshahr-  
District.  
Raja Fateh Singh, of Pawayan, Shahjahanpur District.  
Raja Balaant Singh, of Awa, Etah District.  
Mushki Sir Sayyid Ahmad, Khan Bahadur, K.C.S.I., of Mirgarh.  
Seth Lachman Dass, C.I.E., of Muttra.  
His Highness Maharaja Mahendra Singh, C.I.E., of Bhadawan.  
His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.  
Ali Kader Mirza Inayat Ali, Khan Bahadur.  
Maharaja Sir Pratab Narayan Singh, K.C.I.E., of Ajulbhaya, Fyzabad District.  
Raja Bhagwan Bakhsh Singh, of Amethi, Sultanpur District.  
Amiruddaula Saib-ul-Mulk Muntaz Jang, Raja Sir Muhammad Amir Hossain  
Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Mahmudabad, Sitapur District.  
Rana Sir Shankar Bakh Singh, K.C.I.E., of Khajurgum, Rai Bareilly District.  
Raja Tazadul-Razul Khan, of Jehangirabad, Bara Banki District.  
Raja Jang Bahadur Khan, C.I.E., of Nainpara, Bahraich District.  
Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S., Second Financial Commissioner in the Punjab.  
The Hon'ble the Nawab of Loharu, C.I.E.  
Besh Khan Singh, C.I.E.  
Sir William Rattigan.  
The Revd. Dr. Ewing.  
Mr. Nicholl.  
Lal's Murti Dass.  
Mirza Saraya Jib.  
Rao Kishan Dass, Rai Bahadur.  
Sardar Jwan Singh, C.S., of Shahzadpur.  
Raja Jai Chandel, of Lala Bagraon.

Mr. J. G. Dickson.  
 Mr. A. Pennycuik.  
 Mr. J. MacGregor.  
 Maung Tha Hino, Rice Broker.  
 Maung Gyi, Honorary Magistrate.  
 Maung Shwe Pe, K. S. M., Honorary Magistrate.  
 Ismail Munny, Merchant.  
 Maduraj Cillay, Merchant.  
 Lalla Pokumall, Merchant.  
 Elrahim Ali Mula, Merchant.  
 Gulam Atiff, Merchant.  
 B. Cowasji, Barrister.  
 Li Ahma, Merchant.



## APPENDIX C—continued.

Names of Provinces and Districts.	For the week ending the	Relief Works.	Gratuitous Relief.	TOTAL.
<b>N.-W. P. AND OUDH.</b>				
1. Agra . . . . .	29th May 1897	15,178	7,442	25,620
2. Etawah . . . . .	"	1,732	3,049	4,781
3. Banda . . . . .	"	206,590	36,100	242,390
4. Cawnpur . . . . .	"	2,512	9,572	12,384
5. Hamirpur . . . . .	"	67,026	22,649	120,575
6. Allahabad . . . . .	"	273,415	50,379	323,794
7. Jhansi . . . . .	"	71,307	19,161	90,468
8. Jalaun . . . . .	"	100,512	15,793	116,605
9. Jaunpur . . . . .	"	23,268	20,173	43,381
10. Gorakhpur . . . . .	"	12,597	11,885	26,275
11. Lucknow . . . . .	"	20,571	25,771	56,642
12. Unao . . . . .	"	21,557	16,324	37,881
13. Rae Bareilly . . . . .	"	22,578	12,533	35,111
14. Stepur . . . . .	"	1,497	4,151	5,648
15. Hardoi . . . . .	"	117,424	37,097	150,521
16. Bara Banki . . . . .	"	2,143	1,133	3,276
17. Mirzapur . . . . .	"	39,852	17,137	56,980
18. Dehra Dun . . . . .	"	...	...	...
19. Bijnor . . . . .	"	89	950	1,069
20. Moradabad . . . . .	"	353	2,521	2,873
21. Bareilly . . . . .	"	577	1,939	2,516
22. Multa . . . . .	"	2,559	3,214	5,773
23. Etah . . . . .	"	38	1,863	1,901
24. Mainpuri . . . . .	"	...	227	227
25. Farukhabad . . . . .	"	117	2,453	2,570
26. Badaun . . . . .	"	219	1,370	1,580
27. Shahjahanpur . . . . .	"	491	3,098	3,589
28. Pilibhit . . . . .	"	736	2,596	3,332
29. Kheri . . . . .	"	349	...	349
30. Sultanpur . . . . .	"	2,609	1,219	3,882
31. Pertabgarh . . . . .	"	2,598	2,720	5,318
32. Fyzabad . . . . .	"	...	2,581	2,581
33. Fatehpur . . . . .	"	8,501	6,719	15,220
34. Azamgarh . . . . .	"	11,055	4,784	15,839
35. Benares . . . . .	"	723	11,892	12,615
36. Gonda . . . . .	"	1,870	266	2,136
37. Basti . . . . .	"	2,595	1,602	4,197
<b>TOTAL N.-W. P. AND OUDH</b>	"	<b>1,077,471</b>	<b>362,393</b>	<b>1,439,864</b>

## APPENDIX C—continued.

Names of Provinces and Districts.	For the week ending the	Relief Works.	Gratuitous Relief.	TOTAL.
PUNJAB.				
1. Hissar . . . . .	20th Mar. 1897	54,263	5,041	59,304
2. Rohtak . . . . .	"	6,333	3,094	9,427
3. Gurgaon . . . . .	"	2,981	90	3,071
4. Dehli . . . . .	"	1,996	913	2,909
5. Karnal . . . . .	"	8,508	735	9,243
6. Umballa . . . . .	"	5,099	148	5,247
7. Ferozpur . . . . .	"	1,047	...	1,047
8. Multan . . . . .	"	116	...	116
9. Lahore . . . . .	"	2,380	...	2,380
10. Gujrat . . . . .	"	30,377	3,651	34,028
11. Rawalpindi . . . . .	"	...	...	...
12. Ludhiana . . . . .	"	133	63	196
TOTAL PUNJAB . . . . .	"	113,233	13,735	126,968
CENTRAL PROVINCES.				
1. Saugor . . . . .	29th May 1897	39,480	14,957	54,437
2. Damoh . . . . .	"	38,781	12,409	51,190
3. Jabalpur . . . . .	"	63,213	22,814	86,027
4. Mandla . . . . .	"	27,555	3,058	30,613
5. Seoni . . . . .	"	14,921	2,246	17,167
6. Narsinghpur . . . . .	"	42,319	3,212	45,531
7. Hoshangabad . . . . .	"	69,822	810	70,632
8. Nimar . . . . .	"	355	507	862
9. Betul . . . . .	"	19,028	1,983	21,011
10. Chindwara . . . . .	"	13,539	2,117	15,656
11. Nagpur . . . . .	"	17,544	1,306	18,850
12. Chanda . . . . .	"	542	...	542
13. Bhandara . . . . .	"	30,053	1,684	31,737
14. Balaghat . . . . .	"	60,811	9,667	70,478
15. Raipur . . . . .	"	96,430	9,219	105,649
16. Bilaspur . . . . .	"	42,479	22,421	64,900
17. Sambalpur . . . . .	"	956	346	1,302
18. Wardah . . . . .	"	7,115	...	7,115
TOTAL CENTRAL PROVINCES . . . . .	"	584,943	108,756	693,699
BURMA.				
1. Meiktila . . . . .	14th Aug. 1898	6,666	893	7,564
2. Myingyan . . . . .	"	21,457	5,578	27,035
3. Yamethin . . . . .	"	...	316	316
TOTAL BURMA . . . . .	"	28,123	6,792	34,915





# SECOND REPORT

OF

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

## INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

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### INTRODUCTION.

IN the preface to the first report the Central Committee stated their hope that this, their second and principal report, would be issued in January 1898. This expectation has not been realised, mainly because of the difficulties and delays experienced by Provincial Committees in collecting and collating figures of outlay and statistics of persons relieved under the various detailed heads. But the Central Committee have now the pleasure to present the Provincial Committees' reports in full, together with the statistics and accounts supplied by them. These relate to the period up to the 31st October 1897, though in one or two instances, notably that of Madras and the North-Western Provinces, the information has been given to a later date. By the 31st October the main work of the Fund was over, a sum of ₹1,42,00,000 having been spent out of ₹1,61,00,000 received by the Provinces up to that date. Part I will therefore deal in the first instance, and in detail, with the entire outlay incurred during this period. The comparatively insignificant operations for the succeeding three months, during which, in most places, relief operations were brought to a close, will be described in Part II, and Part III, giving a brief abstract of the Central Committee's proceedings during the whole period, will conclude the report.

Unavoidable  
delay in issuing  
the Second Report.

The financial statements supplied by the Provincial Committees for the first period have almost all been recast in the Central Committee's Office, so as to make them uniform, and they have been certified as correct by those Committees. Attached to each Provincial Committee's report a classified table of statistics of persons relieved, marked B, will be found (*vide*, for example, page 17 of the North-Western Provinces Report). That for the Central Provinces, as well as for one or two of the Provinces where relief was trifling, were prepared altogether by the Central Committee from the original district reports. The totals of all the B returns have been brought together, and the results are described in Part I, under the different objects of the Fund, so as to give the totals for all India. The work of checking and compiling all these returns and figures has been very laborious, and has been enhanced by the delay attending the transmission of some reports. The last was only received by the Committee on the 17th March. But the Committee hope that the consolidated accounts and figures will give to all interested in the great work accomplished by means of the Fund a sufficiently lucid idea of the different ways in which the money, amounting in the aggregate to 170 lakhs of rupees (equivalent at par to £1,700,000), has been spent, and satisfy subscribers that it was equitably distributed in proportion to the distress to be relieved.



Comparison  
between expendi-  
ture of Mansion  
House Fund in  
1877 and 1897.

Modern organiza-  
tion of Famine  
Charitable Relief.

Benefits conferred  
upon peasant  
farmers by Fund  
of 1897.

Miscellaneous relief  
of the hungry, of  
respectable classes  
and orphans.

During the great Madras Famine of 1877 when the Mansion House and foreign subscriptions aggregated £678,000 (equivalent then to only Rs. 79,79,350) no systematic check existed on expenditure, no audit of accounts was made, and so far as is known, no final report of the operations was prepared.\* In the same way, twenty years ago Government relief was far less highly organised and a great deal of waste, both of State and charitable funds, occurred. Thanks mainly to the India Famine Commission which laid down a programme of Railway construction for the protection of tracts liable to famine, since carefully carried out by the Government (and had the Railways not been made, the mortality from starvation even in 1897 would have been very high) and which also drafted a Famine Code, since minutely and frequently revised and adapted everywhere to suit local needs, and thanks also in a great measure to the improved condition of the people brought about by twenty years of good government and extended trade, the famine operations of the Government have been successful in combating the most widespread calamity of the century, for one-sixth of what such a famine would have cost them, judged by previous standards. In fact this famine of 1897, embracing Behar and many parts of Lower Bengal, almost the whole of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, Central India and the Central Provinces, the Madras and Bombay, Deccan, the Punjab and Rajputana, with Baluchistan on the west and part of Burmah on the extreme east, has cost the Government of India only a little more than the famine in the single province of Behar in 1873-74. Similarly, the Central Committee believe that, thanks to the wise organisation devised by the Earl of Elgin and his advisers for the administration of charitable relief, confining it, as recommended by the Famine Commission, to supplementing and not overlapping the relief given by the State, the Mansion House and other Funds in the years 1897-98 have been so judiciously expended, that no comparison can be drawn between the good effected by the Charitable Fund in the recent famine and that which resulted from the generous outlay in 1876-77. The Central Committee have not the least desire to undervalue the strenuous and heroic efforts made by those who administered Government or charitable relief in former famines, to mitigate suffering or prevent mortality. They only maintain that both the Government and those who administer charity to-day have alike turned to good account the experience gained in the past, just as their own successors will profit by any mistakes discovered on the present occasion. The number of cultivators alone, with their families dependent on them, who have been assisted with grants of seed-grain or cattle in 1897, is returned at nearly 1½ millions, a figure which is probably under the mark. In one tract alone (the Central Provinces) the area of land cultivated, thanks to donations from the Fund, is put at a million and a half of acres, equivalent to 1,748 square miles, according to estimates made by the officers of Government themselves, that is to say, land which the present owners had no means at their command to cultivate. These examples prove, it is thought, how valuable a work has been done. Large sums from the Fund have certainly been spent, as many subscribers no doubt wished and expected, in feeding the hungry, mainly wanderers or those whose caste prejudices or social position led them to prefer death by starvation to accepting Government relief, for Government gave work or even gratuitous relief with an unstinting hand,—in clothing the naked, a duty which Government cannot undertake at all,—in selling grain cheap to respectable persons and so enabling them to pursue their ordinary callings and tide over the time of scarcity,—in giving work to weavers and artisans or to poor women, for whom the relief works were unsuitable,—and also in providing homes and maintenance until they come of age for several thousand orphans, for whom no friends willing to adopt them could be found. But all these measures of benevolence, carried out as they were on an unprecedentedly large scale, fade into insignificance by the vast numbers of peasants set once more upon their feet. Government, indeed, holds itself responsible that no one dies who is willing to submit to certain tests, putting no limits on its expenditure, and over the more civilised portions of the distressed provinces, native munificence (which has been abundant) might possibly have done much towards supplying the purely

\* Compare the Hon'ble Mr. Crole's speech, Appendix I of the Madras Report, page 388.

eleemosynary portion of the Fund's work. But Government tests are strict and even deterrent to large classes in India, and indigenous charity is not only unsystematic, but it could not have embraced the wild tracts where the needs were agreeable, as there wealthy natives are altogether unknown. And in no case would gifts of cattle, seed or implements have been made to indigent peasants, either by Government or by local charity, for Government can only advance the tax-payer's money to those who have something to pledge or can give security, and native charity seldom goes outside the giving of doles of food. Thanks, however, to the foresight of the Viceroy and his advisers, in emphasising and adopting the policy for charitable relief sketched out in the first instance by the Indian Famine Commission, in enlisting the whole strength of the Government officials as well of private charitable individuals in the carrying out of that policy, in organising the excellent system of Central, Provincial and District Committees composed of non-officials but containing a leaven of officials, placing full responsibility upon each for the work assigned to it, but insisting that the work should be carried out in concert with the Government, and thus securing method, regularity and those checks against malversation which the official element guarantees, while stimulating to the full the zeal of professional and private individuals, the Central Committee venture to think that the Fund has been administered successfully, that the money has been laid out upon the most deserving objects, and that the results merit the commendation of subscribers. In saying this, the Central Committee are taking no credit to themselves. Any credit that may be due should be given to those who designed the organisation and to the devoted workers throughout India who, in summer or winter, rain or heat, spent their whole energies, and in some cases sacrificed their lives in carrying out State and charitable relief. The Central Committee may add that great as was the sum entrusted to them to distribute, and incalculable the good which has been effected by it, the distress was also so gigantic that they could have usefully spent a larger amount, without any danger of pauperising the people. But readers desiring descriptive particulars must turn to the Provincial reports and to the accounts by District Officers and Committees appended to most of them. And as these are of great length, the Central Committee may invite attention to the following portions which deserve notice for special reasons. The provinces are arranged according to the amount of charitable relief administered in each.

Insufficiency of Government relief or local charity to reach all classes.

Successful administration of Fund.

Special features of Provincial reports worthy of perusal.

## NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

The Provincial Committee invite attention to the following:—

The District Reports for Banda (page 94), Hamirpur (page 104), and Sultanpur (page 141) are particularly full and descriptive, and give a very good idea of the working of the Fund; that for Bijnor (page 71) gives a brief sketch of efficient organization in a district where distress was not severe; that for Gorakhpur (page 130) indicates some of the varieties and difficulties of the work. The distribution of clothing on relief works is illustrated by the report of Lieutenant C. D. Mears (page 45); the necessity of febrifuges after famine is shown in Bareilly (page 70) and Pilibhit (page 85). The treatment of orphans and neglected children in villages is dealt with in the Allahabad Report (pages 110 and 111). Typical notices of relief by gifts of money to the respectable poor are to be found in Moradabad (page 76), Fatehpur (page 93), Lucknow (page 140), and Fyzabad (pages 152 and 155). The system of offering cotton-spinning work for a wage is noticed in Hardoi (page 149). The gifts to cultivators are perhaps best described by District Officers in Agra (page 52), Muttra (page 57), Etawah (page 64), Pilibhit (page 84), Jhansi (page 119), Basti (page 134), and Fyzabad (page 153). In each of these accounts there is some noticeable point. The Benares report (page 126) tells how weavers were supplied with work, the Hardoi report (page 148) explains the gifts for re-building houses. As to the general effect and result of the charity, paragraphs in the Agra (page 55), Shahjahanpur (page 82), Pilibhit (page 86), Jaunpore (page 128), and Basti (page 135) reports may be mentioned, besides passages in those accounts which have been otherwise referred to.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

## CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 (page 186) describe the series of calamitous harvests which culminated in the famine, paragraph 14A (page 195), the exertions made by missionaries and others before the famine commenced, paragraph 22 (page 202), the distribution of clothes, paragraph 23 (page 203), the work of a Roman Catholic Orphanage, paragraph 24 (page 205), the *modus operandi* of cheap grain-shops, paragraph 26 (page 207), distribution of

cattle to *communes*, paragraph 27 (page 209), money to impoverished cultivators for purchase of seed and cattle, paragraph 29 (page 211), the distribution of grain received from America, \* paragraph 31 (page 215), *Khawai* or subsistence allowance, and the manly pride of cultivators, paragraph 33 (page 218), difficulties of relieving aboriginal tribes, and paragraph 38 (page 222), the importation of seed-grain into a hilly district difficult of access.

### BENGAL.

Bengal.

Page (258) describes relief in the Presidency town, page (263) the working of a Fund-poor-house, (page 265) the relief of children, pages (269-270) relief of respectable poor, page (271) the relative advantages of grain and money doles, page (272) the care taken to prevent charitable overlapping State relief, page (276) relief needed owing to the Chittagong cyclone. Appendix F (page 291) the working of a cheap grain-shop.

### BOMBAY.

Bombay.

Page (309) describes the extensive private charity and cheap grain-shops, page (314) failure of crops in Bijapur, page (319) pensioners, page (320) device for preventing abuse of cheap grain-shops, pages (321-322) purchase of cattle and usefulness of object IV, page (322) gratitude of recipients.

### MADRAS.

Madras.

Page (368) describes advantages of a cash over a grain dole, pages (369-370) relief of hill tribes, pages (371-372) independence of people and starvation of children by parents, page (373) operations for saving cattle by provision of fodder, page (379) distribution of money for object IV by Collector of Cuddapah, page (393) attempts to abuse charity defeated, page (396) relief in Palkunda Agency, page (397) hill people living on leaves and roots, page (400) importation of grain found necessary, page (406) value of Mrs. Hauser's clothes, page (407) result of inspection of purchased cattle after delivery, page (415) extortion by village officials, page (419) cholera during distribution, weavers' relief.

### PUNJAB.

Punjab.

Pages (439-440) describe peasantry and women suffering, and causes of distress amongst pensioners, page (441) private subscriptions, page (451) relief in Delhi for 12 months, page (453) relief in Hissar, page (456) of shawl embroiderers in Ludhiana, page (459) distribution under object IV by Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, page (460) relief of women and artisans at Amritsar, Appendix B, page (503) report on the district of Hissar, page (508) unsystematic relief, page (512) device to prevent abuse of cheap grain-shops, page (515) Baptist and Zenana Missions' valuable services, page (520) sending people to their homes, page (521) distribution of object IV money, page (526) Auditor's report, page (527) distribution of clothing by Zenana Baptist Mission, page (528) Miss Bose's work amongst destitute women in Lahore.

### CENTRAL INDIA.

Central India.

Page (553) letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, page (554) good work done by Charitable Fund, page (557) successions of bad seasons, dacoity in Bundelkhand, page (563) system of relief, page (565) Ladies of American Mission, page (570) benefits under fourth object in Baghelkhand, page (575) Gwalior.

### BURMAH.

Burma.

Page (597) describes the distribution of clothes, page (597) transportation of destitute persons to Mandalay, page (588) cultivators insisting on sharing grants with neighbours.

### BERAR.

Berar.

Page (611) describes the wild tribes of the Melghat, page (633) four classes of famine districts, page (616) large numbers fed at poor-houses, page (621) system of relief in the Melghat, page (624) limited right given to plough-cattle, page (625) very high prices of food, page (625) importation of grain into the Melghat.

A perusal of these extracts will give a very good idea of how the Fund has been expended.

\* See also Appendix A, page (121), for Bishop Thoburn's own account.

## PART I.

## Operations up to the 31st October 1897.

Before summarising the information furnished, one point should be noted. The accounts of outlay can be relied upon as being absolutely correct, having been audited, as described further on (*vide* page 111), by special Auditors appointed by Local Governments at the Central Committee's instance, copies of whose reports have from time to time been forwarded to the Central Committee. It is, however, improbable that the statistics of persons relieved are all equally accurate. The bulk of the Fund, a sum amounting to Rs. 1,06,00,000, to which 7½ lakhs were added later, was very properly spent on restoring to prosperity, with grants of cattle, seed-grain, implements and the like, the peasant farmers, who, by the failure of their crops and the death or sale of their plough-bullocks for want of fodder had been the greatest sufferers from the famine. These sums were distributed by the District Officers of the Government, the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners and their staff. The figures of persons relieved under the Fourth Object may therefore be taken as perfectly accurate. It was extremely difficult, however, to keep nominal registers of that part of the fluctuating population in poor-houses, orphanages or employed upon relief-works who received aid from the Fund. Much of the charity expended upon the first three Objects was distributed through private charitable individuals, who are not accustomed to record statistics with the precision of Government officials, though experience has shown that, generally speaking, they paid great attention to the work. And when relief closed, and Local Committees dissolved after the audit of their accounts, there was sometimes no one left in a position to reckon up the actual number of individuals relieved. And the calculations in such cases were sometimes solved in different ways. Thus the Central Committee's instructions were that no person should be counted twice, however frequently he was assisted, and this was a comparatively easy rule to follow when distributing doles of money or food at fixed intervals to persons at their houses under Object III. But even that rule, good so far as it went, was imperfect, as persons who received a single dole were counted the same as an individual who was supported during the whole famine. And of wanderers relieved on the high roads, destitute people coming and going to poor-houses, children who came for gifts of milk, patent foods and the like, it was impossible to keep accurate registers. The numbers of the distressed were, in fact, so great and the labour of relief so onerous that, without an expenditure upon clerical establishments quite incommensurate with the object to be attained, mathematically correct figures could not be expected. Some of the returns also show only daily averages of some kinds of relief. The Provincial Committees have, however, made strenuous efforts to obtain such information as was available, and though only partially successful in some places, yet statistics of persons relieved have been obtained for nearly 98 per cent. of the vast sum expended, and the Central Committee is satisfied that the figures are under rather than over the mark. With the above explanation the Central Committee now present the following abstract, showing the detailed expenditure under the different Objects, compiled from the Provincial Reports.

Accounts of  
expenditure,  
accurate.

Amount spent on  
peasant farmers.

Difficulty in  
obtaining statistics  
of persons relieved  
except peasant  
farmers.

Number of persons  
relieved and the  
cost under each  
object.

# INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

Expenditure up to the 31st October 1897.

Province.	Object I.		Object II.		Object III.		Object IV.		Miscellaneous.		EXPENDITURE FOR WHICH DETAILS OF PERSONS RELIEVED HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN.		GRAND TOTAL.	
	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . . .	407,936	2,53,939 15 3	3,587	11,971 0 7	153,338	9,84,845 2 11	447,588 (7)	35,60,004 1 11	7,297 9 7	5,642 2 8	1,012,439	48,23,720 0 11		
Central Provinces . . . . .	351,662	1,405,615 14 11	6,237	9,439 4 6	25,041	1,22,165 7 1	258,809	25,39,149 0 8	8,327 2 3	1,40,873 2 3	641,749	29,25,569 15 8		
Pengal . . . . .	270,486	2,11,235 10 5	8,202	13,505 5 2	194,678	8,84,968 5 9	246,328	8,09,947 9 3	26,883 10 9	...	719,294	19,46,480 9 5		
Bombay . . . . .	180,449	1,53,090 12 4	1,256	13,083 3 7	87,141	1,60,998 12 3	164,615	9,09,251 13 7	1,951 3 4	1,574 4 3	433,461	12,39,950 1 4		
Madras . . . . .	241,68	3,62,36 2 2	708 (2)	356 7 7	234,389 (3)	1,14,635 10 3	161,952	11,27,997 3 6	3,194 2 8	74,583 2 7	421,157	13,57,002 12 9		
Punjab . . . . .	8,167 (4)	8,563 0 7	7	929 9 0	78,117	2,08,422 0 9	58,115	8,33,239 8 3	9,758 7 5	35,770 4 6	144,606	10,96,682 14 6		
Central India . . . . .	15,155	19,843 12 8	(5)	1,348 3 8	7,763	32,486 5 8	23,979	2,89,825 5 0	340 8 6	20,857 6 6	46,897	3,64,701 10 0		
Burma . . . . .	18,174	8,876 9 3	...	...	4	375 0 0	41,920	2,18,386 8 0	149 7 0	...	60,098	2,27,787 8 3		
Berar . . . . .	61,885	54,658 15 8	1,647	2,716 7 10	21,886	50,713 10 4	28,157	67,274 0 10	1,435 1 2	564 13 0	113,575	1,77,363 0 10		
Rajputana . . . . .	4980	7,201 15 2	313	1,346 12 9	600	1,451 4 1	286	7,122 15 1	...	...	6,179	17,122 15		
Baluchistan . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	715	20,000 0 0	...	...	715	20,000 0 0		
Total	1,342,802	8,59,282 12 5	21,957	54,696 6 8	902,947	25,61,001 11 1	1,432,464	1,03,82,198 2 1	58,337 4 8	1,27,986 3 9	3,600,170	1,41,96,381 8 9		

(1) Of this amount Rs. 10,000 was paid by the Oudh Branch to the Society for the encouragement and preservation of Indian Art.

(2) The number of orphans for whom a subsidy of Rs. 60 was given has not been furnished.

(3) The number of persons supplied with materials under this object cannot be calculated from the returns furnished.

(4) The number of persons relieved under Object I-D has not been furnished.

(5) The number of orphans provided for has not been furnished.

(6) This item is comprised of three sums Rs. 53,122-9, Rs. 2,996-3, and Rs. 870-15-11. The first two sums are receipts by the sale of products under objects III and IV respectively (see Form B), and have apparently through an oversight been reckoned as items of expenditure and thus included in the total of expenditure under these objects as shown in Form C, or the cash account. The third sum, Rs. 870-15-11, was emitted from Form B, but is now shown in the cash account as expended by the Provincial Committee under the head Miscellaneous.

(7) The number is stated by the Provincial Committee to be 35,402 (page 201). The difference is mainly due to statistics of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States not having been returned in detail, and to the figures of the Balasagar District at page 201 being much in excess of the detailed District (B) returns.



the province are very expensive, and the people are generally so sturdy and well-to-do that only comparatively a small population needed this kind of assistance.

Subscribers must be referred, for more detailed information, to the accounts written by the different Provincial Committees themselves, and to Appendix B attached to each Provincial Report, in which the statistics of relief are tabulated, so far as was possible. The Central Committee may, however, make the following remarks on the various forms of relief, under each of the Objects:—

### Object No. I.

#### A.—(a). *Clothing, blankets, etc., received from England.*

Clothing received from England and Colonies,      A list showing the manner in which the bales received through the India Office or direct were distributed is appended, page 671. The number of paupers reported as having received such gifts is returned at 8,952, while 8,824 "*purdanishin*" and respectable persons also benefited by them. The figures are believed to be under the mark, many of the persons who received the clothes having been classified as persons relieved with garments purchased by Local Committees. The clothes were all of excellent quality and much appreciated. The Central Committee specially asked that such gifts, if received even up to the end of January, might be sent on to India, because, even though Famine Relief proper might be then concluded, it seemed probable that the lives of vast numbers of persons, semi-nude and debilitated by privation, might be saved by the distribution of such articles during the whole of the cold weather. Some bales were received as late as the month of March 1898, when relief of the kind had ceased to be necessary, and the contents of these have been distributed on application, mostly to Missionaries in charge of Orphanages and poor-houses, to whom they have proved of great value.

#### A.—(b) and (c). *Clothing locally purchased.*

Clothing locally purchased. Number of recipients.      Provincial and District Committees bought garments of various kinds, including blankets, for the relief of no less than 584,495 individuals, the great bulk being supplied direct by the District Committees.

If to these figures be added clothing distributed to "*purdanishin*"\* native ladies, and the respectable classes (Object IIIA) it will be found that 703,648 or nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million of persons in all received clothes and blankets. The gratitude with which these were received, together with illustrative accounts of the distribution, have been described at pages 57—64 of the first Report. Special attention may now be invited to paragraph 22, page 202, of the Central Provinces Report, and pages 44—50 of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Report. Intense famine, and consequently distribution of clothes on the largest scale, prevailed in those provinces.

The total cost of clothing purchased came to Rs. 4,18,565 under Object I and to Rs. 97,840 under Object III, making a grand total of Rs. 5,16,405. And a great part of the expenditure subsequent to the 31st October, at least in the Central Provinces, was devoted to this purpose on the approach of the cold season. The Central Committee on the 19th October made special grants of Rs. 2,00,000 and Rs. 75,000 to the Central Provinces and North-Western Provinces and Oudh respectively specially for the distribution of native blankets; but the last-named Committee did not expend the grant, as the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces considered it desirable to wind up both Government and Fund Relief simultaneously.

One incidental advantage of distributing clothes was the employment it offered to poor hand-loom weavers, whose custom was gone, partly owing to the general destitution caused by the Famine and partly owing to the Brahmins having pronounced the period from April 1896 to October 1897 inauspicious for marriages, so that the demand for wedding *trousseaux* also ceased. A little less than one-half of the outlay on clothes was paid direct to weavers, who also profited indirectly by the purchases from shopkeepers. In

Advantages of local purchases.

many places advances were made in money and material to weavers and other professional persons, as well as respectable paupers, and the clothes or yarn purchased was utilised for distribution. This mode of relief, however, comes under head C of Object III.

### B.—*Poor-houses and kitchens.*

These institutions were, as a rule, maintained by the State, and the expenditure from the Fund was confined to the provision of extra meals and comforts. In Bengal, however, a good many were maintained by the Fund entirely, and the same was the case in Berar. An interesting description of the Bengal system will be found at paragraph 34, page 262 of the Provincial report, and in many parts of India poor-houses founded at first by private benevolence were aided or entirely taken over by the State. Conversely, many were maintained from first to last by private charity, the statistics of which are not included in this report. The figures of Bengal have not been procured in detail, but it appears that in other provinces 355,400 persons were relieved in poor-houses, at a cost of ₹1,21,352. Special outlay on milk, lime-juice and other comforts, sometimes given at poor-houses or kitchens where cooked doles were being distributed, and also on the relief-works themselves, or in the sufferers' own villages, amounted to ₹42,909. Including Bengal, the total number of persons returned as relieved under this head comes to 446,120 at a cost of only ₹1,71,914. Donations in kind, such as Mellin's Food and Triticine, Swiss milk and Meaby's biscuits, from England, and free grants of grain, flour, etc., by benevolent persons in India, have contributed to keep the actual expenditure low under this head. A cargo of grain collected under the auspices of Dr. Klopsch of the New York *Christian Herald* newspaper and distributed by missionaries was also found very useful (*vide* Appendix A, page 121, and Central Provinces Report, page 211).

Comforts given in poor-houses and kitchens.

This will be further adverted to in Part III.

C.—This head includes the following:—

(i).—*Supplementing with money the Government wage on relief-works.*

This has been rarely resorted to, because the Government was most careful to provide that the wage should be not merely sufficient to maintain bare existence but should keep the distressed in health, and this rule was carried out with so much judgment and consideration, that thousands of persons who had delayed coming to the works till they had reached a state of great emaciation gradually regained their weight and physique. The expenditure accordingly has been small under this heading, *vis.*, ₹10,554.

Supplementing the Government wage not necessary.

(ii).—*Supplementing the Government dole to persons on gratuitous relief.*

The expenditure is a little higher under this heading than the last, as occasionally persons were discovered in distress, who were considered ineligible for Government relief at home, on the ground that they were fit for out-door labour, and for other reasons. Hard cases naturally occurred sometimes, and ₹87,654 was expended upon them.

Supplementing the Government dole.

(iii).—*Providing meals for children and aged and infirm persons about relief-works.*

In this respect also the Government rules were so liberal, that the Fund's expenditure has not amounted to more than ₹21,524.

Meals for persons on relief-works.

The total number of persons relieved under the three last sub-heads has been returned as 58,123 at a cost of ₹1,28,232. The outlay was chiefly incurred in the North-Western Provinces and Bombay.

D.—This head includes—

- (1) *relief to poor people in hospitals, by increasing the ration;*
- (2) *assistance to wanderers;*
- (3) *distribution of quinine and other medicines; and*
- (4) *miscellaneous.*

The Medical Officers in Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries were usually given small sums to enable them to increase the Government allowance for



diets to pauper patients which, owing to high prices, proved insufficient. The magistracy and police were supplied with funds by Government to relieve very urgent cases of wandering distress, and members of the Committees were also furnished with sums for the same purpose. And a severe outbreak of epidemic fever in the most distressed parts of the North-Western Provinces led to the distribution of medicines on a large scale.

The total outlay under head D amounts to Rs 1,40,569, the persons relieved being 145,340.

## Object No. II.

### Orphans.

As a rule orphanages, at least in the most distressed districts, were maintained in the precincts or neighbourhood of Government poor-houses, and the orphans were supported by Government. Consequently, the expenditure and statistics under this head have often, while the famine lasted, been merged in the poor-house figures. But the mortality amongst these poor little creatures was often severe, and then the District Magistrate, their *ex officio* guardian, drafted them off to private orphanages, or to orphanages entirely maintained by the Fund, for change of air, and also in order to secure for them greater personal attention than was possible in Government institutions. It is reported that in allowances to private orphanages Rs 16,826 were spent on behalf of 6,996 orphans, more than half the number being orphans of the Central Provinces. A small sum of Rs 968 was expended in providing temporary accommodation for these waifs, and Rs 6,283 in maintaining fund-orphanages proper. Small sums, amounting in the aggregate to Rs 4,958, were also laid out in constructing orphanages and in other ways, inclusive of a sum of Rs 992, which sufficed to clothe 1,565 children. Details have not been given for a sum of Rs 13,505 spent in Bengal.

Allowances to private orphanages during famine.

The detailed outlay on orphans separately recorded, and incurred by Provincial and District Committees, is returned at Rs 54,696, the number cared for being 21,957, in which sum is included Rs 12,153 paid by District Committees to private orphanages, almost entirely in the Bombay Presidency, for the maintenance of friendless children after the famine closed, till the orphans reach maturity.

Besides this amount, details have not been given for the sums of Rs 21,950 and Rs 250 spent in the Central Provinces and Berar respectively.

Arrangements for orphans after the famine.

The Central Committee from the first recognised that when Government relief should cease, and Government aid be withdrawn, the subscribers would expect provision to be made for derelict orphans. The rules of Government were strict, *viz.*, that every enquiry should be made for relatives, neighbours, or friends of the same caste or religion who might be willing to take charge or bring up the children and who satisfied the District Magistrate of their ability and fitness to do so. Nevertheless, at the close of the famine, about 4,000 children were left on the hands of the Government, almost entirely in the North-Western and Central Provinces. To the Governments of each of these Provinces the Central Committee has made a grant of three lakhs of rupees; leaving the Government full control over the expenditure. The Bengal Committee has also made over to its Local Government a sum of Rs 25,000 for the same purpose. In almost all cases it is understood that the Government will arrange for entrusting the children to private orphanages.

Policy in regard to missionaries.

During the famine ministers of all Christian denominations, benevolent missionaries and others were active in collecting orphans, with the permission of the authorities, from Government orphanages, and they also, it is believed, adopted a great many direct, without the intervention of Government officials, in cases where the relatives were willing to surrender them. Nor were the representatives of reformed Hindu sects or Mahomedan Committees backward in the quest. Some applications have been made to the Central and Provincial Committees for the support of these orphans, but the Central Committee has not deviated from the policy expressed in its First Report (page 14), *viz.*, of leaving such matters to be disposed of locally, and, while the Governments with whom the disposal of the capital grants now rest are willing to subsidise orphanages for children entrusted to them by the Government's own

officers, they will, it is understood, decline to make any allowance for orphans that were not authoritatively made over (as some, it is believed, were) during the famine, or for cases in which the Government is not satisfied that full enquiries for the relatives and friends have been made. This policy is not due to any niggardliness of motive, but the Central Committee and the Local Governments alike feel that where Missionaries and others have made a private arrangement for the support of any child the Fund is not responsible. The managers of the Fund might otherwise be liable to the charge of utilising it for proselytising, which, as subscribers belonged to every creed, would be open to grave objection.\* The total specific outlay on orphans, including the capital grants above referred to and sums spent locally, amounts to ₹7,01,896 (besides a sum of ₹76,915 spent in the period from 1st November 1897 to 31st January 1898).

At page 110 of the North-Western Provinces report a brief account of the arrangements usually made for orphans during the currency of the famine will be found.

### Object No. III.

#### *Relief of "pardanishins" and respectable classes.*

##### *A.—Clothes.*

The supply of clothing to these classes has already been described at page 94.

##### *B.—Supply of work.*

This method of relief has been largely adopted, both for respectable persons where it took the shape usually of employing widows or poverty-stricken mothers on embroidery, sewing, spinning cotton, cleaning rice and the like, and also for relieving professional workmen, such as weavers, tailors, and shoe-makers. The latter comes, properly speaking, under Object No. IV, but in many instances it was difficult to draw a line between respectable and professional families, the agency for relieving them being often the same in both cases. The returns therefore under this head are not quite complete, but they show that 18,639 persons of the respectable classes were given work at a net cost (deducting the sale-value of the finished products, amounting to ₹14,957) of ₹1,95,459. This sum includes a sum of ₹10,000 advanced to the Society for the preservation of Indian Art at Lucknow, of which less than one-half was spent. The giving of work was very popular, as it prevented the feeling on the part of the recipients that they were accepting charity, and helped them to preserve a sense of independence. At the same time it provided a useful check against persons obtaining charity who were not in real need. It was practised with great success in all Provinces, especially at Lahore and Amritsar in the Punjab (*vide* page 528 and page 461 respectively of the Punjab Report), and is a kind of relief that deserves special recognition at subscribers' hands, as it involves very elaborate accounts and minute personal checks, both in selecting as well as in testing the work of the individuals employed. Next to the elaborate enquiries necessary for the selection of peasants for relief under Object IV, this is the most troublesome kind of relief to undertake, and great praise is due to those who undertook the onerous duty, many of them ladies or professional men, and who spent long hours each day over the task, one that required the exercise of unequalled patience. The distribution of sums of money, or the feeding of the poor, was easy work in comparison.

Supply of work to respectable classes and *pardanishins*.

##### *C.—Distribution of grain or cooked food.*

In this instance again the separation of the respectable from the artisan class, the relief of whom should come under Object No. I (C), is a matter of difficulty. At poor-houses and kitchens in some parts of the country there was usually a room or rooms set apart for the better bred people, and in others it was thought prudent to give the dole in kind at the house, or allow them to send for it, in preference to giving money. The total expenditure recorded under this head amounts to ₹3,23,225, the persons relieved numbering 117,905.

Doles of grain or food.

\* From applications which have been recently made for clothes to the Central Committee it appears that, besides 53 orphanages for which figures have not been given, there are 35 orphanages containing 5,775 children, of whom the managers state categorically that 3,164 are Famine Orphans.

### D.—*Money doles to procure food.*

Money doles to *pardahnishins* and respectable classes, large sums expended.

This is one of the most important objects to which the Fund could be devoted, the returns showing 365,976 persons or heads of families relieved, at a cost of Rs 17,32,104. Several illustrations of the methods followed are given at pages 39—44 of the First Report. The heaviest expenditure was in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and in Bengal, amounting to Rs 9,19,206 and Rs 5,18,770, respectively. In other Provinces paupers of good social position are much less numerous.

The comparative advantages of grain and money doles are discussed at page 271 of the Bengal report, and the account there given, as well as that on pages 11 and 14 of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh report, will repay perusal. In Lucknow and many other places relief of this kind began before any general fund was contemplated, owing to prices rising immediately the failure of the autumn crop was certain, and it continued for 12 months.

### E.—*Cheap grain shops.*

Advantages of cheap grain shops.

These offer an excellent opportunity for relieving persons, such as employés in mills, messengers and the like, and in fact all persons with small fixed incomes which the high price of grain renders insufficient for the family's sustenance. They also give an opportunity for well-to-do Native merchants, who prefer giving grain to parting with cash for the exercise of their benevolence. Naturally, such institutions are confined to large towns. As in the case of giving employment, on piece-work, with advances of money or materials, so here, as mentioned at page 451 of the Punjab report, the relief necessitates great watchfulness to prevent abuses, and the personal exertions of individual members of Local Committees with this object are worthy of all praise. The system varied in every place, but the care with which applicants for the privilege were selected, and the arrangements for vouchers were all equally praiseworthy. Even if the head of a family received in kind an addition to his pay not exceeding 8 annas or Rs 1 *per mensem*, he found it a valuable addition to his means. As a rule not more than 2 seers or 4 lbs. per rupee over the market-price was allowed. Sometimes, as at Nagpur, it amounted to only 1 lb in the rupee, but even this was thankfully accepted. The number of shops in Bengal has not been given, and in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh there was only one, but in other Provinces a total of 112 shops is reported, of which 66 were in the Punjab. A good account of the working of these shops will be found at page 291 of the Bengal report and pages 205 and 206 of the Central Provinces. In some places local benevolence provided the capital for stocking the shop, the Fund merely managing it and paying the loss. The total burden to the Fund, representing the loss on these shops throughout India, amounted to Rs 1,51,860, and 125,692 heads of families are returned as relieved. Many cheap shops also existed, unconnected with the Fund.

Amount of grain given gratis,

Miscellaneous,

*F.—Miscellaneous relief under Object No. III.*—Is returned at Rs 60,510, expended upon 46,758 persons. Almost the whole of this is reported from Bengal, and for the most part consisted of relief given to persons who would have been in receipt of gratuitous relief from the State, had such relief been organised in the districts where it was concerned, but in which Districts distress was not so severe as to require Government organisation.

## Object No. IV.

### *Restoring ruined cultivators and others.*

#### *A.—Employment to professional workmen.*

In the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency this forms an item and one very important item, of State relief. In other parts of India weavers and others are expected to go upon relief-works like other people, though provision is usually made to give them light tasks. In some cases money was advanced from the Fund to buy materials, in others the materials themselves were

Employment to weavers.

given, the finished work being taken over by the Fund. The total cost has come to Rs 1,47,805, the families relieved (counted in the statistics as units) being 25,697. This last figure is really much below the mark, as unfortunately the returns for the Punjab, where Rs 22,216 were spent, do not give sufficient details for working out the number of persons assisted. But a reference may be made to pages 445 and 457 of the Punjab report. An interesting account of this work at Raipur, in the Central Provinces, is given at page 48 of the first report, which is referred to again in the Central Provinces Committees' Report, page 216, and paragraphs 50 to 58 of the Bengal Report, page 269, may also be perused with interest.

### B.—Re-building and repairing houses.

In almost every Province small sums have been given to aid persons whose houses had been destroyed by fire or rain, or had fallen into ruin through their poverty. The total number of persons assisted was 5,890, at a cost of Rs 33,590, the greater part of which was expended in 11 districts of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The outlay in that Province would have been greater, had the Provincial Committee not fixed an early date on which to stop all relief (*vide* page 102 of the North-Western Provinces report).

### C.—Money grants to cultivators for the purchase of cattle and seed, etc.

Under this head considerably more than one-half of the total fund has been expended. It was the general opinion that cultivators could be trusted to make the best bargains for themselves either for cattle or seed. The money was all given after the strictest investigation by the District Officers, and in most cases distributed by the District Officers' own hands. In the most distressed district of all, Banda in Bundelkhand (part of the North-Western Provinces), no less than Rs 4,86,457 were distributed to 56,809 heads of families, or Rs  $8\frac{1}{2}$  each, and in Jubbulpur, in the Central Provinces, Rs 3,67,692 were given to 35,210 families, or Rs 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  each. The following are the detailed statistics under this head for all India :—

	No. of Persons.	Amount.
		Rs
Gifts for purchase of cattle alone . . . . .	159,012	29,77,812
Ditto seed-grain alone . . . . .	438,625	33,36,770
Ditto implements . . . . .	28	754
Ditto fodder and subsistence . . . . .	17,009	1,01,924
Ditto for subsistence of cultivator till the crops ripened, and labourer's wages . . . . .	58,484	3,44,247
Weeding . . . . .	28,739	1,12,375
Consolidated gifts for one or more of the above objects . . . . .	166,803	4,12,262
Persons relieved and amounts expended under this head, but not classified under any one of the above . . . . .	262,492	16,05,920
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,181,192</b>	<b>88,92,064</b>

The following is the detail of the persons who received gifts under Object No. IV, which have not been classified specifically.

	Persons.	Amount. Rs
BENGAL (all districts) . . . . .	130,859	5,20,266
CENTRAL PROVINCES (districts of Nursingpur, Chindwara, Damoh, Betul and part of Jubbulpore). . . . .	76,379	5,56,192
CENTRAL INDIA . . . . .	27,368	1,94,748
MADRAS (districts of Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Vizagapatam and Ganjam). . . . .	21,992	3,01,741
BOMBAY (districts of Nasik and Satara) . . . . .	5,894	32,973
	<b>262,492</b>	<b>16,05,920</b>

As the Provincial Committees are unable to give the details required, and the labour of examining the accounts over again to classify such items would be enormous, the Central Committee have not thought it desirable to ask for

further information. In Bengal it is known that, as there has been no mortality of cattle, the gifts were given for seed-grain. In the others it may be divided roughly into  $\frac{1}{2}$  for cattle and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for seed-grain.

Areas of land sown  
by the aid of the  
Fund.

The Central Provinces Committee have kindly forwarded to the Central Committee a statement showing for each district the area of land that was cultivated in the monsoon of 1897 owing to aid received from the Fund. The following are the total figures:—

	Acres.
<i>Kharif</i> or autumn crops . . . . .	1,034,310
<i>Rabi</i> or winter crops . . . . .	484,789
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,519,099</b>

This is equivalent to an area of 1,748 square miles in one Province alone. In the district of Bijapur (Bombay), 348,874 acres, or 11 per cent. of the normal cultivated area, were sown by grants from the Fund entirely. The figures give some idea of the gigantic sum-total of relief afforded, when all the famine-stricken Provinces are taken into account.

#### D.—*Grants in kind, of cattle, seed or fodder.*

Grants in kind of  
cattle, seed and  
fodder.

For reasons already explained grants of this kind were made sparingly. Nevertheless, 63,241 persons received cattle or seed in kind at a cost of Rs. 5,86,035. The largest outlay on cattle was in Bombay. In some districts the wholesale mortality of cattle had left no surplus animals for sale, and the impoverished ryots could not, for want of means, go to distant markets. It was impossible for private trade to supply the demand, as there was no fodder procurable with which to feed animals on their way to the market, the only supply consisting of such grass as the Bombay Government imported by rail from the forests, or millet-straw which the Fund and a few dealers imported from more favoured districts. The number of animals purchased through the Fund in Bombay was 8,190, at a cost of Rs. 1,94,394, or Rs. 23.7 per head. In the Central Provinces also a small number were purchased for presentation to villages, where it was feared either that the aboriginal tribes might squander cash imprudently, or that the animals might be seized at once for debt. In these cases the cattle were presented to the village as a community (Central Provinces Report, page 208). The cost here for 1,092 animals was only Rs. 3,055, not more than Rs. 2.8 a head, which is not surprising, as thousands of animals had been sold for the value of their hides, and in fact numbers were to be had for the asking, a sad testimony to the intensity of the famine. In the Punjab 602 animals cost Rs. 15,081, or just a little over Rs. 25 a head. In Madras the allowance, paid in cash went up to Rs. 40 for a single bullock. In Berar the comparatively large number of 853 were bought for the very distressed tract of the Melghat, and they cost Rs. 11.3 a head. Here also they were not made over in full ownership.

Similarly 17,461 ryots received grants of seed in kind in the Central Provinces at a rate of Rs. 12.6 a head, inclusive (and, indeed, everywhere allowances were made for the same purpose) of a small grant, to enable the cultivator and his family to live while preparing the ground and waiting for the harvest. The cost of an average grant of seed alone in Bombay came to Rs. 2.7 per head.

In Bombay also expenditure was incurred from the Fund on grants of fodder, bought at a privileged rate from Government, to the extent of Rs. 44,178, by which 3,141 (but this number is probably much under estimated) persons profited. In Madras the Provincial Committee itself energetically undertook what the Government and District Committees had arranged for in Bombay, and themselves exported to the distressed districts 2,983 tons of fodder, at a cost of Rs. 1,12,020, of which Rs. 32,546 were recovered, so that, including free grants of the value of Rs. 3,853, the net cost to the Fund was only Rs. 79,474. The Provincial Committee embarked on this undertaking, only when it realised that it would not pay private enterprise to do so, and it was put an end to as soon as the rains fell and fresh grass sprung up. The account of the operations of the Madras Committee, pages 372-3, deserves reading. By their energy, in arranging for reserved forests to be thrown open free for grazing, for relief advances to be made easily available, without the usual cumbrous formalities, for the purchase of local fodder from those who had surplus stocks from the

previous season, and, lastly, by their own importations of fodder into the distressed tracts, the Provincial Committee reckon that the value of cattle saved through their instrumentality may be put at Rs. 11,00,000. This may give some idea of the Great losses of cattle. terrible loss incurred by the ryots of Bombay and the Central Provinces, where the cattle perished wholesale, and also in the North-Western Provinces, where, however, mortality was not severe.

### *E.—Loans recoverable.*

Except in a few instances in the Punjab, Central Provinces, and Berar, this mode of assistance has been confined to Bengal, where 26,268 persons were given loans, amounting to Rs. 10,249. The Central Committee and the Government of India alike took exception to this mode of utilising the fund, on the ground that subscribers would be dissatisfied, that Government itself was advancing loans to those who had security, and that the money would be better utilised in free gifts to the distressed ryots of other Provinces, for large numbers of whom provision could not be made owing to want of funds. The Bengal Committee allude to the matter in their report, page 273. Outside Bengal the total sum advanced on loan was only Rs. 995. The figures of the persons to whom they were advanced have not been furnished.

### *F.—Other relief under Object No. IV.*

The returns show 159,421 persons relieved, mostly with valedictory doles or grants to persons, generally agricultural labourers, but including a good many cultivators, when leaving relief works, to assist them in tiling over the time till they could obtain regular employment again. The expenditure was Rs. 20,582. The largest outlay was in Madras, where the sum of Rs. 2,90,862 is reported to have been given to 7,110 persons, or at the rate of nearly Rs. 40 per head. It is possible that much of this expenditure comes more properly under Head C (Grants of money for seed or cattle). In Bengal the number of doles given was 83,628, and the amount was Rs. 1,32,046, or a little over Rs. 15 each. Valedictory doles and other relief.

### *Office and other expenses.*

The total comes to Rs. 75,419 for all India, exclusive of the Central Committee's own expenses. Of this Rs. 16,082 was spent by Provincial and Rs. 59,337 by District Committees. The cash accounts of Provincial Committees show that their total outlay up to 31st October 1897 was Rs. 1,41,95,381. The expense of distributing the Fund comes therefore to rather more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the total amount expended. This is due to the great amount of voluntary assistance rendered by Government officials and private individuals and firms, so that, excepting expenditure on a few clerks and stationery, there was practically no outlay at all on establishments and offices.

## PART II.

Operations from 1st November 1897 to 31st January 1898.

During the month of October, the autumn harvest having been good, the numbers on Government relief decreased rapidly.

Growth and decline  
of famine.

The following figures showing the numbers of persons on Government relief, at various stages of the famine, indicate its rise, growth and gradual decline :—

*Statement of persons on Government Relief Works and Government Gratuitous Relief on various dates.*

	6th Feb- ruary 1897.	5th June 1897.	25th Septem- ber 1897.	30th October 1897.	25th Decem- ber 1897.	12th March 1898.
Madras . . .	42,363	396,413	257,930	23,361	1,887	7,176
Bombay . . .	325,695	352,034	424,364	108,741	22,305	10,504
Bengal . . .	338,810	833,447	41,115	150	...	...
N.-W. P. and Oudh .	1,254,108	1,530,986	205,561	...	...	...
Punjab . . .	97,259	96,368	5,638	...	...	...
Central Provinces .	284,287	697,520	638,176	444,156	11,942	57
Burmah . . .	33,230	18,277	17,101	11,904	...	...
Berar . . .	...	30,472	6,185	566	...	...
Hyderabad State .	...	40,537	24,249	9,301	...	...
Central India . .	69,062	128,454	32,386	16,410	...	...
Rajputana . . .	25,041	22,520	4,475	110	...	...
GRAND TOTAL .	2,469,855	4,147,028	1,657,180	614,699	36,134	17,737

Monsoon of 1897.

The famine had reached its zenith just before the burst of the North-Western monsoon, which usually begins in the middle of June. The rains began well; then came a long break, which caused a renewal of grave anxiety. But after that a continuance of good rainfall soon began to reduce the intensity of the famine, and by the 30th October Bengal and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, where over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions of persons in the aggregate were being supported by Government in June, were altogether freed. The Central Provinces, much the most distressed province as a whole, continued relief for a much longer time, partly because in some tracts the main crop is not grown till the winter, and so did Bombay, where the rains were not thoroughly satisfactory. Then in parts of Madras a new famine began to spring up, owing to the failure of the late or North-East monsoon in seven of the Coast districts, while Government relief begun in the famine of 1897 still (March 1898) continues in one of the Bombay districts, and relief from the fund is still being administered in that district and several others. In these districts the Bombay Committee expects that charitable relief will be necessary up till July or August 1898.

High prices main-  
tained after the  
famine.

The fall in prices consequent on a favourable monsoon has also not been altogether so satisfactory as might be wished. The following table of prices at some of the most important famine centres are taken from the *Gazette of India*, and show the prices obtaining in May 1897, *i.e.*, during the height of the famine, compared with those ruling in the first half of January 1898, and also compared

with normal prices in a good year. The prices are stated in seers per rupee (seer = 2lbs. 1 oz. avoirdupois).

PROVINCE.	Grain.	Normal Price.		Price, 1st half of May 1897.	Price, 1st half of January 1898.
		Seers.		Seers.	Seers.
BENGAL.					
Krishnagar . . .	Common Rice	15½	to 18	8½	nearly 12
Champaran . . .	Maize . . .	20	" 26½	9½	20
N.-W. PROVINCES.					
Allahabad . . .	Jawar * . .	21	" 24	10	17¾
	Rice . . .	11	" 15	8	10
	Wheat . . .	13½	" 14½	9½	9½
Banda . . .	Bajri † . .	22	"	9½	18
PUNJAB.					
Lahore . . .	Wheat . . .	18¾	" 21½	12½	12¾
	Jawar . . .	27¼	" 29	10	18½
	Bajri . . .	17¼	" 18¼	9½	15
BOMBAY.					
Poona . . .	Jawar . . .	19	" 22¼	9¾	nearly 13
	Bajri . . .	15	" 18¾	8½	12½
Sholapur . . .	Jawar . . .	25	" 31	11½	10½
	Bajri . . .	21	" 23¾	8½	13½
CENTRAL PROVINCES.					
Nagpur . . .	Jawar . . .	19	" 24¾	11½	nearly 18
Jabalpur . . .	Wheat . . .	14	" 16	9½	10½
Raipur . . .	Rice . . .	16	" 18½	8	12
BERAR.					
Akola . . .	Jawar . . .	20	"	11	nearly 22
MADRAS.					
Bellary . . .	Jawar . . .	25	" 29	11½	14½

\* Great millet.

† Bulrush millet.

The place in Bombay where jawar (the great millet) was actually dearer in January 1898 than in the preceding May is Sholapur, where relief-works are still in progress, and the District has also suffered from plague. Combined with statistics of persons on Government relief, the figures prove that though the Famine proper of 1897 may be said to be now (March 1898) at an end in almost every place, still prices have not dropped to their normal level, especially in the Deccan, and another season will be necessary, for the poor, at any rate, to regain their old standard of living and comfort. Nevertheless, the severity of the pinch was, as anticipated, over by the 1st November, and charitable as well as Government relief became soon a thing of the past. In fact before the end of October the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh strongly suggested to the Provincial Committee of the Fund that its operations should cease, as famine no longer existed. Consequently it will be found that the operations of the Fund soon dwindled away, and that there is not very much to show for the period now to be described.

Statement J, pages 140-141, show the state of Provincial accounts for the period, from November 1st to January 31st, during which most Provincial Committees were gradually closing their operations. The Central Committee do not consider that subscribers will require such detailed particulars of the expenditure under the various objects as has been given for the previous period.



Accounts of  
provinces from  
November to the  
end of January  
1898.

From the abovenamed statements, however, it appears that the balance on the 1st November was:—

	R	a.	p.
With Provincial Committees . . . . .	5,27,947	14	4
„ District „ . . . . .	14,20,856	13	4
Provincial receipts from the Central Committee and other sources during the period amounted to . . . . .	1,82,228	10	2
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>21,31,033</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

The period ended with a balance of —

With Provincial Committees . . . . .	5,47,585	9	6
„ District „ . . . . .	3,07,711	6	6
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>8,55,297</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Sums were refunded to the Central Committee

amounting to . . . . .	92,377	0	11
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The expenditure meantime having been divided as follows:—

Object No.	I	II	III	IV	Miscellaneous	R	a.	p.
Object No. I . . . . .						1,99,528	7	5
„ „ II . . . . .						76,915	9	0
„ „ III . . . . .						91,614	9	9
„ „ IV . . . . .						7,84,989	1	0
Miscellaneous . . . . .						30,311	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .						<b>11,83,359</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

Noticeable items  
of expenditure in  
above period.

The following particulars may perhaps be noticed. Under Object No. I, the principal item was R1,10,159-4-1 spent in the Central Provinces, mainly on blankets given to relief-workers as they left the works. In Bombay a sum of R46,181-14-6 has been spent, chiefly in plague-stricken parts of the Famine Districts, and Bengal has spent R23,672-14-4. The sum of R76,915-9-0, entered under Object No. II, includes sums making up R12,428-11-5 handed over to orphanages at Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Hardoi and Cawnpore in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the sum of R25,000 given to the Bengal Government for orphans, and a sum of R20,000 set aside and written off by the Madras Committee for the same purpose. Of the sum of R30,311-9-9, debited to Miscellaneous, R14,779-4-6 are debited to the North-Western Provinces alone, consisting mainly of one large item of R12,557-15-6, out of local subscriptions ear-marked for expenditure in the City of Cawnpore and made over to the infirmary at that place (See page 176 of the North Western Provinces Report.)

Figures of persons relieved under the four objects have not on this occasion been procured. On the data of the previous period it may be assumed that the following can be relied on as an approximate estimate:—

Object No. I . . . . .	200,000	persons.
„ „ II . . . . .	5,000	„
„ „ III . . . . .	30,000	„
„ „ IV . . . . .	108,000	„
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>343,000</b>	<b>„</b>

Grand total of  
persons relieved.

making a grand total of nearly 4 millions relieved from first and last.

Before stating how the balances on January 31st have been disposed of, it is necessary to state that part of the funds of both Provincial and District Committees consist of funds locally collected and ear-marked by the subscribers for expenditure in the province or in the district to which they belong.

The question was raised whether balances of such funds, accounts of which had sometimes been kept separate from the money remitted from the General Fund by the Central Committee, should be retained by the province and district concerned or given back. The Central Committee discussed the question, and on the 7th October 1897 informed all Provincial Committees that all expenditure should first be considered as having been incurred from the local subscriptions, and that where the expenditure had exceeded such subscriptions the whole balance should be remitted to the Central Committee, but that if—a contingency which has happened in only a few districts of Bengal—the expenditure were less, then the local committee could retain the balance, returning only the grant from the General Fund. Some District Committees, therefore, have been allowed to retain balances for local use, which in the case of Bengal come to Rs. 24,843-2-3.

In Cawnpore City also, and Rawal Pindi town, where the relief was met entirely out of local collections (although the distributing agency was affiliated to the Fund), the balances of their collections have been retained, but the Cawnpore Relief Fund has subscribed Rs. 10,000 to the Provincial grant for orphans.

The following abstract shows the net state of Provincial Committees' balances up the latest date—

*Balance on the 1st February 1898.*

Provincial balances  
on 1st February  
1898.

Province.	With Provincial Committee.	With District Committees.	Total.	Remittances to Central Committee.	Balance.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . .	2,63,984 4 5	Nil	2,63,984 4 5	Nil	2,63,984 4 5
Central Provinces . . . .	326 5 5	64,993 2 5	65,319 7 10	Nil	65,319 7 10
Bengal . . . . .	82,069 6 6*	24,843 2 3	1,06,912 8 9	82,069 6 6	24,843 2 3
Bombay . . . . .	71,448 0 9	1,12,688 2 2	1,84,136 2 11	Nil	1,84,136 2 11
Madras . . . . .	97,433 3 10	60,717 0 7	1,58,150 4 5	Nil	1,58,150 4 5
Punjab . . . . .	29,490 0 1	26,510 8 0	56,000 8 1	Nil	56,000 8 1
Central India . . . .	1,047 11 6	10,994 6 0	12,042 1 6	Nil	12,042 1 6
Burma . . . . .	13,256 9 7	148 7 0	13,405 0 7	Nil	13,405 0 7
Berar . . . . .	901 15 3	6,816 10 1	7,718 9 4	Nil	7,718 9 4
Rajputana . . . . .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Baluchistan . . . . .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>5,59,957 9 4</b>	<b>3,07,711 6 6</b>	<b>8,67,668 15 10</b>	<b>82,069 6 6</b>	<b>7,85,599 9 4</b>

**NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.**

On the motion of the Lieutenant-Governor, N.-W. P. and Oudh, the Provincial Committee informed the Central Committee on the 3rd November 1897 that it had stopped all operations of relief. The Provincial Committee (inclusive of District Committees) had on the 15th November 1897 a balance of Rs. 2,63,984-4-5. Adding to this certain miscellaneous recoveries (including Rs. 5,500 unspent by the Society for the Preservation of Indian Art) the total comes to Rs. 2,69,494-4-5. This sum has been made over to the Local

\* Includes Rs. 12,371-15-10, belonging to the General Fund.

Government as part payment of the grant made of 3 lakhs of rupees by the Central Committee for orphans, and the balance, Rs. 30,505-11-7 was remitted by the Central Committee on the 17th February 1898 to the Local Government direct.

### CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Small balance with Central Provinces.

The Provincial Committee has settled to leave Rs. 13,970-13-2 with various District Committees, to grant Rs. 3,000 to an orphanage, and recall and remit to the Central Fund a sum of Rs. 20,204-4-2. This Provincial Committee's own trifling balance of Rs. 326-5-5 will, the Central Committee thinks, be probably needed for unforeseen contingencies. The District of Hoshangabad possessed on 31st January 1898 the unusually large balance of Rs. 11,532-10-5. The Provincial Committee are making enquiries about this, and any recoveries will be sent to the Central Fund.

### BENGAL.

Bengal Accounts wound up.

The Provincial Committee found itself in a position to refund a large amount to the Central Committee, amounting to Rs. 2,75,000 prior to the 31st October, and Rs. 50,000 subsequently. It finally closed its operations on the 9th February 1898, paying Rs. 25,000 to the Bengal Government for the support of orphans and refunding to the Central Committee the sum of Rs. 82,069-6-6,\* to which were subsequently added further small recoveries amounting to Rs. 164-13-3. On the occurrence of a disastrous cyclone in the District of Chittagong, the Provincial Committee, at the instance of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, had previously made a grant of Rs. 50,000 for the relief of the sufferers. This grant, though, properly speaking, not famine expenditure, was afterwards approved by the Central Committee, as the district, though not severely distressed, had suffered from the effects of the very high prices that ruled in 1897.†

### BOMBAY.

Expenditure still in progress in Bombay.

The province had a balance on the 1st February 1898 of Rs. 1,84,132-6-11, of which Rs. 1,81,354-9-9 belonged to the General Fund, and Rs. 2,781-9-2 had been ear-marked for retention in certain districts.

In this Province plague has been superadded to famine, and the Central Committee has approved of sufferers from plague in famine-districts being relieved in various ways. Prices are also still very high in some parts, and even Government relief operations have not entirely closed. The Provincial Committee are therefore of opinion that it would be premature to close its operations for some time longer.

Since the 31st January they have remitted Rs. 25,000 more to Sholapur, Rs. 10,000 to Ahmednagar, and Rs. 10,000 to Bijapur. Although recoveries may be made from certain District Committees, still it is not improbable that two, at least, of the districts may require further assistance, and that provision may be required to be made for certain orphans made over to Orphanages by Government officers. The Honorary Secretary has been informed that any balance that ultimately remains must be remitted to the Honorary Secretary of the new Committee, to whom the Central Committee on its dissolution will make over its funds (*vide* p. 126). Meanwhile in concert with the Local Government, the Provincial Committee must continue to see that the accounts are properly kept and audited, and monies devoted only to the objects of the Fund.

### MADRAS.

Expenditure still in progress in Madras.

In this Province, also, owing to the failure of the North-East monsoon in 1897, the Madras Government anticipates that a further expenditure of nearly ten lakhs will be necessary on State relief,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs in 1897-98 and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs in 1898-99. They, therefore, obtained on the 17th January 1898 a grant from the Central Committee of Rs. 30,000, and the Central Committee has approved of their adding to this sum an item of Rs. 20,000, being the munificent contribution promised to the General Fund by H. H. the late Maharajah of Vizianagram, (the delay in realising which was due to H. H.'s demise), and Rs. 3,045-11-4 consisting of miscellaneous subscriptions collected on account of the General Fund, and not remitted to the Central Committee.

\* This includes Rs. 12,371-15-10, collected for the General Fund and not previously remitted.

† See addendum to Vol. II, page 676.

The Honorary Secretary to the Madras Committee has obliged the Central Committee with a statement of the Madras balance brought, down to 8th March, of which the following are the salient points. It appears that at present the Committee, possesses altogether a balance of about Rs. 1,30,255. The figures include transactions between 1st February and 8th March subsequent to those ending 31st January given at page 434.

The total sum at the disposal of the Committee has been since December 15th Rs. 2,43,813-10-0. Out of this, disbursements to the extent of Rs. 1,12,755-8-5 have been made as follows:—

											<i>R</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>	
Object No.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	113	4	2
" "	II	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20,139	2	0
" "	III	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,499	1	9
" "	IV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	88,998	14	4
Miscellaneous		.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,605	2	2

The expenditure under head IV includes the balance of a grant of Rs. 50,000 under that head which has lately been disbursed in Anantapur. This was specially asked for by the Committee of that district for the relief of indigent artisans, and it had been strongly recommended by the District Collector. The tardy disbursement was caused by delay in the preparation of lists of deserving recipients; and at one time the Madras Committee decided to withdraw the grant altogether on this account. An urgent representation was however received from the District Committee, and eventually the grant was upheld and the money sent. The work of disbursement has since been promptly and efficiently carried out, and considering the deserving nature of the cases relieved, this Committee is satisfied that the grant was fully justified. In addition to the above total, a small sum of Rs. 800 under Head IV has lately been sent to the Collector of Cuddapah to relieve certain deserving cases which had been previously excluded from the lists and which had been brought to the notice of the Committee by the Rev. Howard Campbell.

This Committee has also been informed that any final balances must be credited to the Central Fund. Up to the present the anticipations of Government relief seem, judging from the statement of relief workers on page 102, not to have been fully realised.

PUNJAB.

Out of the closing balance of Rs. 29,490-0-1 with the Provincial Committee and Rs. 26,510-8-0 with District Committees, total Rs. 56,000-8-1, the Provincial Committee expect to refund to the General Fund a sum of about Rs. 40,000. The Deputy Commissioner of Lahore is about to spend Rs. 7,075 of the balance (which his District Committee had originally reserved for possible expenditure on a poor-house) under Object No. IV in assisting agriculturists of his district, amongst whom the mortality of cattle has been very severe, and for whom the grant previously distributed (by the Deputy Commissioner personally) was insufficient. And certain small items of expenditure were sanctioned by the Provincial Committee on the 22nd February 1898.

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. P. Masson, C.I.E., V.D., is now collecting the balance, and will in due course remit it to the Fund. The balance of a small sum raised in the town of Rawal Pindi for town relief only and kept apart from the General Fund will be left with the Committee that manages it.

**CENTRAL INDIA.**

Of the balance in hand, Rs. 12,042-1-6, on 31st January, the bulk, Rs. 10,648-1-3, has already been forwarded to Surgeon-Lt.-Col. Crofts, Medical Officer to H. H. Scindia, for expenditure on blankets and other relief under Object No. III, and it only appears as a balance against the Provincial Committee, because that officer has not sent in his accounts in time to be included in the Provincial Statement. Apart from this sum, there is only a balance of Rs. 1,394-0-3, which the Agent to the Governor General states will be expended by the 31st March 1898 on one or other of the four Objects.

**BURMA.**

The balance of Rs. 13,405-0-7 is, the Central Committee understand, not likely to be required, but a final reply has not yet been received from Rangoon. News has just been received the Rs. 12,000 are being refunded to the Central Fund.

## BERAR.

Berar accounts wound up with small balance.

Mr. F. S. Bullock, C.I.E., Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and Chairman of the Berar Provincial Committee, reports that of the balance of Rs. 7,718-9-4, a sum of Rs. 6,000 will be returned to the Fund by the Akola District Committee, and that the small balance outside of that sum is required for local expenditure on the four Objects.

## BALUCHISTAN AND RAJPUTANA.

Baluchistan and Rajputana wound up accounts, have no balance.

The operations in these provinces (where no Provincial Committees were formed, and the money was entrusted to the Agent to the Governor General for distribution) were concluded within the period ending October 31st, 1898.

Principal items of expenditure.

Few further observations are needed as to the objects on which the outlay of Rs. 11,83,359-4-11 between November 1897 and January 1898 was incurred. The largest expenditure has been in the Central Provinces. Under Object No. I, the sum of Rs. 1,10,159-4-1 has, as noted before been spent in warm blankets for the distressed, on the approach of the cold weather [*vide* the remarks of the Chief Commissioner, Appendix B, page 124], to prevent deaths from fever and pneumonia to which the weakly and debilitated are liable in the cold weather, and under Object No. IV, Rs. 2,90,299-3-0 have been spent on seed with which to cultivate the important and valuable *rabi* crops of wheat and oilseeds. Indeed, out of a total expenditure of Rs. 11,83,359 from November to January Rs. 7,84,989 have been on Object No. IV alone. The expenditure in Bengal includes, as has been said already, Rs. 50,000 for Chittagong, and Rs. 25,000 for orphans, leaving only Rs. 45,156-5-1 on other objects. The expenditure in other Provinces calls for no specific notice.

The following statement shows the total expenditure of the different provinces from the commencement to the 31st January 1898, or the date of winding up, whichever was earlier :—

Province.	Object No. I.	Object No. II.	Object No. III.	Object No. IV.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. A
N.-W. P. and Oudh . . .	2,63,594 12 5	24,399 12 0	9,86,296 0 11	35,88,289 3 11	24,947 14 0	48,87,527 1
Central Provinces . . .	2,15,775 3 0	32,837 0 1	1,53,285 7 7	29,42,791 15 7	20,453 10 9	33,65,163
Bengal . . . . .	2,34,908 8 9	49,166 6 11	8,83,583 5 4	8,69,578 4 1	31,000 5 6	20,65,635 1
B. m. ay . . . . .	1,99,272 10 10	14,127 12 6	1,82,701 14 10	10,76,782 1 10	5,066 2 7	14,84,930 1
Madras . . . . .	26,349 6 4	20,435 9 7	1,17,134 12 0	12,41,058 9 10	7,344 4 9	14,25,412 1
Punjab . . . . .	14,747 8 7	3,719 9 0	2,56,299 14 8	8,85,431 11 9	13,633 2 6	11,73,822 1
Central India . . . . .	21,143 13 8	9,380 2 8	34,806 11 11	3,72,115 12 6	631 0 0	4,29,077
Burma . . . . .	8,945 5 3	.....	410 0 0	2,09,424 2 9	486 3 0	3,09,206 1
Berar . . . . .	58,337 7 10	7,318 15 5	53,933 8 0	71,097 14 1	2,163 11 2	192,752
Baluchistan . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	20,000 0 0	.....	20,000
Rajputana . . . . .	7,231 15 2	1,346 12 9	1,451 4 1	7,122 15 1	.....	17,122 1
TOTAL . . . . .	17,69,273 11 10	1,53,512 0 11	26,83,203 15 4	1,13,76,632 11 5	1,05,731 6 3	1,53,79,717 1

## PART III.

## Central Committee's Proceedings.

Appendix D shows a complete classified list of subscriptions received from the time of the inauguration of the fund up to March 12th, 1898.

The total sum received up to 31st August 1897 as stated in the first report was as follows:—

	R	a.	p.
United Kingdom . . . . .	1,20,95,918	9	11
Other Foreign Countries . . . . .	13,39,360	7	4
India—collected by General Committee . . . . .	8,65,106	3	3
„ Provincial and Local Committees . . . . .	19,45,578	9	5
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,62,45,963</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>

Since the 1st September the following subscriptions have been received —

	R	a.	p.
United Kingdom . . . . .	2,05,816	14	4
Other Foreign Countries . . . . .	30,641	2	7
India—collected by General Committee . . . . .	86,451	12	3
„ Provincial and Local Committees . . . . .	1,48,126	9	2
Miscellaneous receipts by ditto . . . . .	2,95,815	8	2*
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>7,66,851</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>

	R	a.	p.
The grand aggregate of the Fund, therefore, amounts to . . . . .	1,70,12,815	12	5
Of the above, the sum at the disposal of the Central Committee was . . . . .	1,45,19,782	7	7
The sum collected by the Central Committee but ear-marked for Provincial Committees was . . . . .	1,03,512	10	1
Collected by Provincial and Local Committees and not passing through Central Committee's hands . . . . .	20,93,705	2	7
Miscellaneous receipts by ditto . . . . .	2,95,815	8	2*
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,70,12,815</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>

The growth of the General Fund month by month is also shown in Appendix D. Grand aggregate of Fund up to 12th March 1898,

Appendix E shows the remittances made by the Central Committee from the first, and the following abstract shows the result:—

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	Total allotments.	Amounts refunded.	Net amounts remitted to Provincial Committees.	Remittances made by Central Committee.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . . .	46,68,687 2 1	.....	46,68,687 2 1	
Central Provinces . . . . .	33,07,038 8 0	.....	33,07,038 8 0†	
Bengal . . . . .	18,64,709 2 6	3,25,000 0 0	15,39,709 2 6	
Bombay . . . . .	13,64,250 0 0	.....	13,64,250 0 0	
Madras . . . . .	12,97,923 3 4	.....	12,97,923 3 4	
Punjab . . . . .	9,06,583 0 0	42,000 0 0	8,64,583 0 0	
Central India . . . . .	3,50,050 0 0	.....	3,50,050 0 0	
Burma . . . . .	3,06,000 0 0	.....	3,06,000 0 0	
Berar . . . . .	1,10,000 0 0	.....	1,10,000 0 0	
Baluchistan . . . . .	20,000 0 0	.....	20,000 0 0	
Rajputana . . . . .	25,000 0 0	7,877 0 11	17,122 15 1	
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,42,20,240 15 11</b>	<b>3,74,877 0 11</b>	<b>1,38,45,363 15 0</b>	

The Central Committee on July 20th decided to reserve and invest a sum of 6 lakhs of rupees for the maintenance of orphans after the famine. They have since, on February 14th allotted this sum in equal shares to the Governments of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Central Provinces, which have undertaken the duty of supervising its expenditure. The former has

\* This sum includes realisations by District Committees of work manufactured for them by distressed artisans and others.

† In addition to this amount a sum of Rs 153-4-0 was remitted to the Central Provinces Committee for expenditure on blankets as expressly desired by the donor.

Investments made by Central Committee.

received it in cash, its own balances forming the bulk of the allotments. To the latter Government Promissory Notes have been made over of the nominal value of 3 lakhs.

Provincial Committees' receipts up to 31st January 1898.

The table that follows shows the total receipts of the Provincial Committees, up to 31st January, showing the Central Committee's net remittances and the provincial and local subscriptions and their total expenditure :—

Province.	Net receipts from Central Committee.			Provincial and Local receipts, including "Miscellaneous Receipts."			Total.			Expenditure.			Balance.		
	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . . .	46,68,687	2	1	4,82,824	13	7	51,51,511	15	8	48,87,527	11	3	2,63,984	4	5
Central Provinces . . . . .	33,07,191	12	0	1,23,291	0	10	34,30,482	12	10	33,65,163	5	0	65,319	7	10
Bengal . . . . .	15,39,709	2	6	(1)6,20,468	5	0	21,60,177	7	6	20,65,636	14	7	94,540	8	11
Bombay . . . . .	13,64,250	0	0	3,04,836	13	6	16,69,086	13	6	14,84,950	10	7	1,84,136	2	11
Madras . . . . .	12,97,923	3	4	2,85,639	11	7	15,83,562	14	11	14,25,412	10	6	1,58,150	4	5
Punjab . . . . .	8,64,583	0	0	3,65,240	6	7	12,29,823	6	7	11,73,822	14	6	56,000	8	1
Central India . . . . .	3,50,050	0	0	1,00,069	10	3	4,50,119	10	3	4,38,077	8	9	12,042	1	6
Burma . . . . .	3,06,000	0	0	10,671	11	7	3,22,671	11	7	3,09,266	11	0	13,405	0	7
Berar . . . . .	1,10,000	0	0	90,478	1	10	2,00,478	1	10	1,92,759	8	6	7,718	9	4
Rajputana . . . . .	17,122	15	1	.....			17,122	15	1	17,122	15	1	.....		
Baluchistan . . . . .	20,000	0	0	.....			20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0	.....		
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,38,45,517</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,89,520</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,62,35,037</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,53,79,740</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8,55,297</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

For details of the expenditure reference is requested to Part I of this report and to the Provincial Committees' own reports and appendices.

The Central Committee's own cash accounts will be found at Appendices F, I and M, pages 135, 139 and 144.

The following abstract gives the salient figures for the whole period up to 12th March 1898.

Central Committee's cash account.

<i>Receipts</i> . . . . .	R	a.	p.
	1,46,23,295	1	8
<i>Disbursements</i> —	R	a.	p.
(1) Net Remittances to Branches . . . . .	1,38,06,160	10	8(2)
(2) Payments for transportation of American grain and other expenditure on distress . . . . .	23,239	4	8
(3) Amount transferred to Investment Account . . . . .	7,63,000	0	0
(4) Expenditure on the Office Account . . . . .	11,000	0	0(3)
(5) Cost of distributing clothes received from England, etc., and sundries . . . . .	3,394	12	0
(6) Foreign Telegrams . . . . .	5,726	14	9
(7) Balance on the 12th March with the Bank of Bengal . . . . .	10,773	7	7
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>1,46,23,295</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

The actual expenditure under entry No. (4) has, up to the 28th February 1898 inclusive, been as follows :—

Central Committee's office expenditure.

Treasurers and Accountants . . . . .	R	a.	p.
Clerks and Messengers . . . . .	7,249	14	3
Rent . . . . .	8,999	5	11
Inland Telegrams . . . . .	525	0	0
Postage . . . . .	1,590	12	0
Travelling expenses of the Vice-Chairman's Secretary and Messengers on tour . . . . .	1,087	11	9
Allowance to Auditors of Provincial accounts . . . . .	2,184	4	0
Advertisements, reporters, etc. . . . .	1,032	6	2
Stationery . . . . .	875	10	0
Office furniture . . . . .	1,330	5	9
Sundries . . . . .	1,713	7	0
	1,150	8	1
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>27,739</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

(1) In addition to this Rs26,371-15-10 was collected locally for the General Fund and remitted to the Central Committee.

(2) Taking into account the closing balance (Rs69,697-6-8) of the Bengal Committee which has been handed over to the Central Committee, as also a sum of Rs164-13-3 recovered in Bengal after operations had ceased.

(3) Including the sum of Rs350 realised by the sale of a typewriter, and a small amount received for interest on the office account, the total available for office expenditure on March 12th was Rs1,617-0-1.

Deducting a contribution of R18,000 kindly made by the Government of India towards office expenses, the net expenditure from the Fund has been during 14 months R9,739-4-11 or a little under R700 per mensem, which the Committee cannot but consider as moderate.

As mentioned in the First Report, the Chamber of Commerce kindly gave the Committee rooms free of charge till the 12th September 1897. For a short time the office was housed in a vacant office of the Government of India, and from the 16th October only it was compelled to hire quarters at a rent of R150 a month. Central Committee's rooms.

In Appendix C, page 126, will be found the rules for the custody and disposal of the unexpended balance of the Fund, which have received the approval of the Government of India. The money now at the Central Committee's credit consists of investments in Government promissory notes, amounting to R4,89,800 (par value), and cash, which may amount to R8,000, when all accounts are adjusted. These sums will be handed to the Comptroller General for safe custody, and for investment in Government securities of the interest as it accrues, and will be kept intact till the next famine. To these will be added the refunds made by Provincial Committees which have not yet made up their accounts or closed operations entirely. The Central Committee expect that at least R75,000 or 1 lakh of rupees remain to be recovered, and that the total investment will come to about 6 lakhs of rupees.

The Central Committee have held 29 meetings. Besides distributing the funds, the Central Committee have, as stated in their First Report,\* had the talk of distributing all over India gifts in kind that have been made them by various charitable firms and individuals. They may mention here that a consignment of 20,000 cartridges from the Normal Powder Syndicate, Limited, was sold by the exertions of the Hon'ble A. H. Wallis, a Member of the Committee, who succeeded in obtaining a sum of R1,132-13-6 for them. They may also state that in addition to Mrs. Hope Simpson, many other ladies of Liverpool organised working parties, and the name of Mrs. Rapsey, of Port of Spain, must be mentioned also. Mrs. Hauser has continued to a very late date to collect and send gifts of clothing, of which, in all, 144 bales have been received and distributed. (See page 671). Central Committee's meetings.

A point to which the Central Committee attached very great importance, was the audit of disbursing Committees' and individuals' accounts. As stated in their First Report, the Committee obtained the approval of the Government of India to the deputation of gentlemen belonging to the Government's own Account Department for the duty, and the plan has been very successful in every province. Specially experienced officers of Government, familiar with such work, and acquainted with the vernaculars of the province were selected, who travelled from district to district examining all accounts and vouchers on the spot, and reporting direct to the Provincial Committees. Complete copies of their diaries and reports were also sent to the Central Committee and carefully scrutinised by the Vice-Chairman, who brought to the Provincial Committees' notice all points regarding which further enquiry or action seemed desirable. Audit of disbursing Committees' Accounts.

Each auditor, as he was appointed, was informed that his main duties were, to ascertain whether—

- (1) accounts of all outlay have been duly kept and vouchers obtained where practicable;
- (2) money from the Charitable Fund has been spent on anything not comprised within the four Objects specified by the Government of India's Resolution of 8th January 1897, appended to Sir Francis Maclean's Circular No. 17 of 25th January, and especially whether any outlay has been incurred from the Fund which was properly payable by Government;
- (3) measures have been taken by the Provincial and District Committees to classify the expenditure properly; and
- (4) statistics of persons relieved by means of the Fund have been accurately kept.

And his special attention was called to the necessity of seeing that all local subscriptions and grants from the Fund had been brought to account, and, in regard to expenditure, that the outlay upon employing workers was properly checked, and that sums or materials advanced were properly vouched for and the work returned duly credited. He was at the same time particularly enjoined to be careful in studying the convenience of the ladies and gentlemen who were so kind as to administer the Fund.

\* See page 13.



Facilities given to  
Auditors.

On account of the long distances it was not possible for the auditors to visit every place where relief was being administered, so arrangements were generally made to call in the accounts and vouchers of outlying Committees to central places in each district where they could be properly examined. The Central Committee are glad to state that every facility was given to the Auditors by the District Officers and the Committees of the Fund. The Local Governments were kind enough to defray the salaries and travelling expenses of the Auditors and their clerks and the Fund allowed ₹100 a month to each, as an honorarium, in consideration of the severe nature of the work, especially during the hot weather.

Satisfactory result  
of audit.

It now gives the Central Committee unqualified satisfaction to record that everywhere the Auditors' reports on the points referred to them have been of the most gratifying kind. Nothing irregular has been found, beyond trivial matters which only an Accountant would detect and which give no ground for supposing there has been malversation. On the other hand, the Auditors' visits were productive of much good in bringing prominently to the notice of Provincial Committees the actual manner in which the Fund was being expended, and if occasionally there was any symptom of want of energy, or there appeared a possibility that the balance of a District could be better utilised elsewhere, the Provincial Committee was able to take action at once. As a rule, however, any District Committee which found as the Famine progressed that it could spare funds for the benefit of other districts more seriously affected, spontaneously surrendered them. Similarly, the Provincial Committee of Bengal, where, fortunately, the intensity of the famine was not nearly so prolonged as in Central or Western India, returned 3½ lakhs of rupees to the Central Committee for distribution in Bombay and the Central Provinces from which demands had come that the Central Committee, without such help, would have been unable to meet. The Auditors also examined the statistics kept of persons relieved, and rectified mistakes and omissions.

The Central Committee do not think it necessary to publish the Auditors' reports, as with the correspondence to which they gave rise and information as to the manner in which the various points and objections noted were disposed of, they would fill a series of printed volumes. It will, however, interest subscribers to read the summing up of the Madras Auditor, dated 8th March 1898 :—

#### *General Result of Audit.*

Madras Auditor's  
report.

"The total expenditure incurred by the Provincial and District Committees up to date comes to ₹14,41,547 as detailed below :—

		₹
Object No. (i)	.	36,350
" " (ii)	.	495
" " (iii)	.	1,17,135
" " (iv)	.	12,02,887
Cost of fodder supplied to the Deccan Districts by the Provincial Committee	.	77,260
Contingencies	.	7,420
		<hr/>
TOTAL	.	14,41,547

"Complete vouchers for the above amounts have been produced and audited except for small amounts in Cuddapah, Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool and Godavari, aggregating in all to little over ₹9,000. Vouchers for this amount are daily expected from the districts concerned, and it is hoped that their audit will be completed by the end of this month at latest.

"It will be seen from the figures given above that about six-sevenths of the whole expenditure was incurred under Head IV, *i.e.*, in lump grants paid to poor cultivators for buying seed-grain and cattle, and to artisans for buying tools, as also to give them a fresh start in life. The disbursement of money having been undertaken almost entirely by Government officials—Collectors and their Divisional Officers—there was no difficulty whatever in securing vouchers for these payments. Under instructions from the Madras Committee lists of impoverished ryots and artisans had been previously prepared after careful enquiry and the grants were paid in the presence of the Collector or his Divisional Officer and one or two members of the Sub-Committee also where possible. Receipts were invariably taken from the payees and attested by witnesses when the payees could not sign.

"Vouchers for a little over three-quarters of a lakh of rupees spent by the Provincial Committee in the purchase of fodder sent out to the districts were also found to be satisfactorily maintained. Straw appears to have been bought at the cheapest rate possible and

the Railway Companies charged specially low rates of freight for conveying the fodder to the districts.

"Expenditure under Heads I to III was chiefly incurred by the Sub-Committees and to a small extent by the District Committees also. The Committees being composed almost entirely of non-officials not well acquainted with account rules and forms, and the work of distribution having been done by them I had feared that proper vouchers would not be maintained by them; but I was agreeably surprised to find that vouchers were maintained by one and all the Sub-Committees in the same way as trained Government officers would in support of the payments they had made.

"To quote instances;—money doles were found to be invariably supported by nominal rolls and in very many cases with payees' receipts also. The purchase of cloth was vouched for by the vendors' receipts and the distribution of clothes by the original nominal rolls, the latter being signed and certified by the Secretary and two members of the Sub-Committee. Money spent on comforts given in kitchens and relief camps and hospitals was supported by either receipted bills of tradesmen supplying the comforts or certificates from the medical officer in charge. Acquittance rolls were kept by all the Committees for salaries and travelling allowances paid to establishments. Contingent charges were vouched for in the same way as in Government offices; postage charges were supported by the vendors' receipts or entries in the despatch book, cost of telegrams by telegraph receipts; and stationery, printing and saddery charges by bills from shopkeepers.

"One excellent feature I noticed in the administration of the Fund was the strict economy shown by the Committees in incurring establishment and contingent charges. One District Committee (Vizagapatam) worked without a clerk for the whole period and not a single item under contingencies can be said to have been spent by any of the Committees unnecessarily.

"The office records and accounts of the Committees were kept scrupulously neat and in good order, and the Secretaries and members have always been ready to afford me every facility in examining their records and auditing their accounts.

"In conclusion I beg to state that in examining the accounts and auditing the vouchers of the Fund I followed strictly the instructions of the Central Committee conveyed in its letter dated 10th July 1897, and that I am glad to be able to report that the whole of the expenditure from the Fund has been rightly incurred and satisfactorily accounted for.

"I beg to append a set of draft rules and forms of account for future guidance as desired by the Central Committee in the Circular No. 1845, dated 3rd October 1897."

Attention is also invited to the reports of the Auditor in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, page 170, and of the Punjab, page 526. The Auditor for Bombay, who spent nearly six months over his task, reports at the end:—

Report of Auditors  
for North-Western  
Provinces and  
Punjab.

"The instances in which misapplication of funds had been made were very rare. I have, therefore, every reason to say that the charitable funds have been expended in accordance with the prescribed objects thereof, that the accounts of the expenditure have been properly kept and that efficient check over them has been exercised by the District and Provincial Committees."

Similarly, the Auditor for Bengal writes:—

"I have already submitted in my diaries detailed reports as to the objects on which money has been spent by the Local Committees, the accounts kept by them, and the supervision exercised by them over the expenditure of the money by their subordinate disbursing agencies. It will appear from those reports that though the fund was administered by honorary gentlemen having responsible duties of their own, yet on the whole the money has been expended in accordance with the prescribed objects of the Fund, accounts of expenditure have been properly kept, and an efficient check has been exercised over the expenditure incurred."

Report of Auditor  
for Bengal.

From the Central Provinces the Auditor's final report has not yet been received. In the Native States where relief from the Fund was administered, control over the expenditure was exercised by the Political Agents. In Berar and Burma the accounts were audited by the Government Treasury Officers.

A good deal of trouble was experienced at the commencement of the Famine of 1897, owing to the absence of any standard forms of accounts suitable for Charitable Relief. In order to save the distributing agencies trouble the Central Committee, at the outset, prescribed very brief returns of the outlay incurred and relief administered, and some time elapsed before the detailed particulars to be ultimately furnished were set forth. Meanwhile some Provincial Committees also left each District Committee to follow its own lead as regards its method of recording expenditure, and the resulting multiplicity of forms was inconvenient and confusing. To avoid this for the future, the Central Committee asked that the Auditor in each Province should at the conclusion of his labours draw up a set of simple forms and rules, such as he considered most suitable for the Province concerned, with a view to their being ready for adoption, should hereafter India be

again afflicted by so serious a famine and the charity of the United Kingdom and the world at large be once more so profusely extended to her. Accordingly the Provincial Committees of the North-Western Provinces and Madras have printed complete Codes for the purpose, and the Bombay Auditor has also sent a series of forms which he has drafted and to which the Honorary Secretary to the Bombay Branch has added an excellent set of rules. The Central Committee have deposited copies of these papers in the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India, though they hope that many years may elapse before the need for them is felt.

Auditing of Central Committee's accounts.

The Central Committee's own accounts have been kept and audited by the Treasurers, Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, Chartered Accountants of Calcutta, to whom their acknowledgments are due for accepting a reduced stipend as receipts fell off, and for, after the 31st January 1898, performing the work without any remuneration.

Central Committee's acknowledgments to Provincial Committees and their officers.

The Central Committee desire to place on record their grateful appreciation of the manner in which the Provincial Committees have supported them in carrying out the objects of the Fund, and the invaluable services rendered by the Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries of those Committees upon whom, as the executive of their respective Committees, fell the main responsibility for recommending and distributing grants to individual Districts as well as of watching the progress of expenditure, and insisting on punctual reports. Theirs also was the task of corresponding with the Central Committee and satisfying them as well as the members of their own Committees, as to the just requirements of their province. Their labour has been extremely onerous, and although at times there may have been slight differences of opinion, the Central Committee desire to acknowledge cordially the uniform courtesy and loyalty with which they have given effect to the Central Committee's decisions.

Taking the provinces in order according to the magnitude of distress the Central Committee offers its cordial and grateful thanks to the gentlemen whose names follow, for the assistance given to the Committee throughout the Famine.

Province.	Chairman.	Honorary Secretary.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh (Joint Committee).	Sir John Edge, Kt., Q. C., Chief Justice of Allahabad.	Mr. J. W. Hose, I. C.S., Registrar of the High Court.
North-Western Provinces	Ditto	Ditto.
Oudh	Mr. Deas, Judicial Commissioner of Oudh.	Mr. L. C. Porter, I.C.S.
Central Provinces	Mr. J. F. Stevens, and afterwards, Mr. Stanley Ismay, Judicial Commissioner.	Rai Bahadur Bipin Krishna Bose, C.I.E., Government Pleader.
Bengal	1st Hon'ble Mr. Stevens, C.S.I. 2nd Hon'ble Mr. Grimley, Member of the Board of Revenue.	Mr. E. N. Baker, I.C.S., Collector of Customs.
Bombay	His Excellency the Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay (President).	1st Sir George Cotton, Kt. 2nd Mr. A. K. Leslie, of Messrs. Greaves, Cotton & Co.
Madras	Hon'ble Mr. Crole, C.I.E., Member of the Board of Revenue.	Mr. Henry Beauchamp, Editor of the <i>Madras Mail</i> , and the Hon'ble Rajarathnam Mudaliyar Dewan Bahadur, Inspector-General of Registration. (Joint Secretaries).

Province.	Chairman.	Honorary Secretary.
Punjab . . .	1st Sir William Rattigan. 2nd Mr. Justice Reid.	D. P. Masson, C. I. E., V. D., Lieutenant-Colonel, 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifles, Mr. C. H. Atkins, I. C. S., Joint Secretary.
Central India . . .	Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C. S. I., Agent to the Governor-General.	First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General.
Burma . . .	The Hon'ble Sir Frederick Fryer, K. C. S. I., Lieu- tenant-Governor of Burma.	Mr. W. F. Noyce, Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioner.
Berar . . .	Mr. F. S. Bullock, C. I. E., Commissioner.	Messrs. Bandhuji Janardan and R. N. Mudholkar, Honorary Secretaries.

In Baluchistan and Rajputana, no Provincial Committees existed, but the Central Committee is indebted to Mr. H. S. Barnes, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General at Quetta, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel Gaisford, Deputy Commissioner of Thal Chotiali, and also to Sir R. Crosthwaite, K.C.S.I., late Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, for their kind services in distributing the fund.

And in this place the Committee have to thank many ladies and gentlemen, both private and official, who in the midst of their arduous duties of relief found time to write for the Committee graphic narratives of their work as it progressed, outside of their official reports. A selection of these papers was published in the Committee's first report, while operations were still in full swing, so that the public might realise some of the difficulties encountered by Relief Committees, and be made acquainted with various interesting incidents. The published extracts form indeed only a small part of the material collected. The Committee desire in particular to thank Mr. T. Stoker, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, at whose instance a large number of these narratives were written, and who took great pains to forward to the Committee all the information about the fund which he could obtain in the course of his official duties.

Lastly, on behalf of the distressed millions, who have been relieved and brought back again to health and prosperity, the Committee's warmest thanks must be tendered again to the subscribers in the United Kingdom, British Colonies and Settlements, in Foreign Countries, and in India itself, who have contributed so magnificent a sum as Rs. 1,67,00,000. The Chairman has already written personally to thank the late Lord Mayor of London, Sir Faudell Phillips, G.C.I.E., the Earl of Derby, President, and to Sir Frank Forbes Adam, Chairman of the Lancashire Committee, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow and to many Governors and leading persons in various parts of the world, who kindly took a prominent part in encouraging or collecting subscriptions. In their First Report the Committee have already expressed their gratitude. But the Committee cannot refrain from once more expressing their profound sense of the munificence of the subscribers in the United Kingdom, India, Canada and other British Colonies, Russia and other Foreign Countries, a list of whose subscriptions is given as Appendix D to this Report (page 128).

The contribution from the United Kingdom amounts to the magnificent sum of £773,000 and exceeds the fund raised for the Great Indian Famine of 1876-77 by nearly £150,000, but the Committee have no materials, or indeed room, for a review of it in detail. Suffice it that from such lists as have reached the Central Committee it is evident that all classes, from Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, who graciously subscribed two sums of £500 each, downwards subscribed handsomely. And the Committee can only tender respectfully their heart-felt thanks to all who devoted their time and influence towards gathering these funds together, as well as to the subscribers themselves.

Thanks to subscribers in India.

A classified list of Indian subscriptions to the General Fund alone will be found at page 128. In Calcutta 78 firms subscribed Rs 2,89,850, or an average of Rs 3,730 apiece. The Provinces of Burma and Madras, though the famine was present in their own borders, subscribed upwards of Rs 86,000 and Rs 77,000 respectively, and Mysore, mindful of the Mansion House Fund of 1876, organised a subscription so successfully as to add more than Rs 88,000 to the Fund. The special thanks of the Committee are due to Mr. S. Fraser, I.C.S., Tutor to His Highness the Maharajah, and also to Mr. C. Madiah, Joint Honorary Secretary, for their kind services. The Bishops of the Church of England kindly arranged for special collections for the famine. The entire Indian subscriptions, inclusive of those given for particular provinces, districts or places, comes to (12th March) Rs 30,45,263, the largest sum of all, outside the United Kingdom. And so much munificent local charity was evoked that very large sums are known to have been expended in addition, which did not pass through the Fund's accounts at all.

And in Foreign States.

And the rulers of some friendly States themselves lent their influence and subscribed. The French Republic gave, through the Consul-General of France at Calcutta, the sum of Rs 1,500, the Government of Holland remitted 1,500 guilders, and it was under the express wishes of His Imperial Majesty the Tsar that the handsome subscription raised at St. Petersburg and Odessa was initiated. The Ceylon Government subscribed, as also did the Provincial Government of Ontario. The Chief Justice of Pretoria in the Transvaal himself raised a subscription in that republic.

To the United States for grain and money.

The people of the United States, under the auspices of Dr. Klopsch, Proprietor of the New York *Christian Herald*, subscribed Rs 5,20,000, all of which was remitted to Missionaries for distribution, and under the guidance of Bishop Thoburn, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, other denominations were given shares of this bounty to distribute; this large sum is not included in the accounts of the Fund, which received only Rs 15,400. Large contributions of grain were received in the United States, America, most of which was sold, but one ship-load was sent out to India in the "*City of Everett*." The Reverend Dr. Hobbs of Chicago arrived in charge of the cargo, and the Central Committee contributed Rs 20,000 towards its transport to the distressed provinces. The steamer itself was chartered and paid for by the United States Government, which expressed its willingness to pay for three ships in all, but it was thought more convenient to realise the balance of the grain and remit the proceeds in coin. The "*City of Everett*" was met on arrival by Mr. James, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Konstam, Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Famine Department, Mr. E. N. Baker, Honorary Secretary of the Bengal Committee of the Fund, Bishop Thoburn and others. In short, every endeavour was made to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Hobbs, and assist him in distributing the grain. The Indian Railways carried it at favourable rates, and over the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company's system it travelled free. Appendix A, page 121, gives an account which Bishop Thoburn has kindly sent to the Committee, of the way in which the grain was distributed, and an independent narrative by Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpur, will be found at page 211 of the Central Provinces Report. The Government of India have asked Her Majesty's Government to convey their thanks to the Government of the United States and to Dr. Klopsch.

To Canada.

The generous subscription of Canada has been alluded to. His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, the Governor-General, from the first took a specially active interest in the movement, so that the largest subscription of all outside of England and India was speedily raised. To His Excellency and to Mr. J. N. Courtney, the Honorary Treasurer, the Committee tender their grateful thanks. As in the United States, in Canada also some subscriptions were received in kind.

To China.

Liberal subscriptions were raised in the British Settlements in China, as well as in the Empire of Japan. The Committee are most grateful to His Excellency Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong, the Honourable J. H. Stuart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Thomas Jackson, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund in the Colony. They also thank Sir James Hannen at Shanghai, Chief Justice and Consul-General, and Mr. H. H. Bristow, Her Majesty's Consul at Tientsin. In Shanghai His Excellency Wang

Wên Shao, the Viceroy of the Province, kindly subscribed \$100 and the Custom Taotai a similar sum. The aid of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, which kindly conveyed the Committee's messages *gratis* over their line, deserves mention here, and still more so, Reuter's Agency in Calcutta, which assisted the Committee with the net-work of its organisation in sending appeals at cost price all over the world. Other Telegraph Companies have assisted also,—for instance the Anglo-American Telegraph Company remitted the Committee's telegrams without retransmission charges. To Telegraph Companies.

In Japan, two leading Japanese banks showed great interest, and Mr. K. Kawalsami, Director of the Nippon Bank (Bank of Japan), not only (as did Banks of all nationalities) lent the machinery of the Bank for the collection of subscriptions but by the personal interest of himself and his friends enlisted the most influential Japanese newspapers in support of the movement. Consequently there was a large number of Japanese subscribers, including the Cabinet Ministers, and many leading Japanese commercial men. To all of these and particularly to Mr. Troup, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Yokohama, Mr. Carey Hall at Hiogo, and to the Consul at Nagasaki the Committee are very thankful. To Japan.

In Australia, a warm promoter of the Fund was His Excellency Sir T. Fowell Buxton, K.C.M.G., Governor of South Australia, and the subscription of nearly £9,000 contributed by all the five Colonies (of which Victoria alone remitted £5,000) was very welcome. In most cases the remittances came direct from the towns in which they were collected. The Committee would in particular thank the following gentlemen: John Clayton, Esq., Town-clerk of Melbourne, George Perry, Esq., Town-clerk of Ballarat, the Mayor of Sydney, H. J. Saunderson, Esq., Mayor, and William E. Bold, Esq., Secretary to the Indian Relief Fund, Perth, P. Davies, Esq., Honorary Secretary to the Indian Relief Fund at Karridale, the Mayor of Brisbane, the Town-clerk of Sandgate, C. J. Kyle, Esq., Honorary Treasurer to the Committee at Toowoomba, the Mayor of Rockhampton and H. Daviz, Esq., Town-clerk, E. Macdonnell, Esq., Town-clerk of Normanton, K. N. Ciller, Esq., Town-clerk of Maryborough, D. F. Treehy, Esq., Town-clerk of Townsville, and the proprietors of the "*Register*" newspaper at Adelaide, for the trouble they have taken in soliciting and collecting subscriptions. To Australian Colonies.

Out of the remittances from New Zealand a sum of R750 was forwarded through the Mansion House and the sum sent direct amounted to £2,000, mostly received direct from Local Committees. Nor was Tasmania lacking in kind assistance, both Hobart Town and Launceston having sent remittances. To A. Boardman, Esq., P. Dignam, Esq., Mayors of Auckland, R. J. Saddler, Esq., and J. G. Davies, Esq., Mayors of Launceston and Hobart Town, H. Geurley, Esq., and H. L. Michel, Esq., Mayors of Dunedin and Hokitika, G. H. Swans, Esq., Mayor of Napier, the Mayors of the City of Christchurch, Greymouth and Westport, R. N. Keeling, Esq., W. Young, Esq., J. Purnell, Esq., and E. Hampton, Esq., Town-clerks of Palmerston North, Invercargill, Waingau, and New Plymouth, the Town-clerk of Timan, and G. H. Graham, Esq., of Waimate, New Plymouth, the Central Committee are most obliged. The Governors of Gibraltar and Ceylon, General Sir Robert Biddulph, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., R.A., and the Right Honourable Sir Joseph West Ridgeway, K.C.S.I., K.C.B., respectively, also gave warm personal attention themselves to the Fund, and the amount of subscriptions realised was remarkable in consequence. India being the cradle of Buddhism it was not surprising for the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee to receive a visit from a deputation of Buddhist priests from Ceylon, who arrived with a cargo of garments for distribution to places in India where the Buddhist faith is reviving, one bale of which was handed over to the Central Committee for distribution. Not only Buddhist but Shinto priests were amongst the contributors from Japan. New Zealand.  
Tasmania.

The Colony of Mauritius has herself suffered from such severe calamities that her gift of R13,000 was much appreciated, and a special letter of thanks was written to His Excellency Sir Herbert Jermingham, K.C.M.G., for the subscription sent through the Mayor of Port Louis. From Natal, the Mayor of Durban, G. Payne, Esq., and from Demerara, Messrs. Vieting and Richter of Georgetown forwarded remittances. Those from Trinidad arrived in instal- Buddhist priests.  
Mauritius.  
Demerara.  
Trinidad.  
Natal.

ments through O. U. Warner, Esq., the Government Emigrant-Agent for the Colony. From Jerusalem also the Committee received a collection kindly made by the Right Reverend Bishop Blyth. To all the Central Committee tender their best thanks.

Russia, Sweden  
and Siam.

Of European countries Russia and Sweden deserve special mention and so does Siam amongst the countries of Asia. In the latter country, Her Britannic Majesty's *Chargé d'affaires* and Consul-General at Bangkok was so kind as to make the collection.

The Press.

The services of the Press must not be forgotten. In India the principal newspapers very generously published all lists of subscriptions and advertisements received from the Committee free. In Canada the *Montreal Daily Star* opened a fund and collected \$55,000 and gave up entire sheets of its issues to the advertisements of small subscriptions and the *Montreal Daily Witness, Mail, and Empire* and the *Globe* (Toronto) and the *Christian Guardian*, Ottawa, may be also mentioned. Amongst the earliest subscriptions received by the fund was one from Singapore, collected by Mr. Arnot Reid of the *Straits Times*, which, he particularly explained, was not only contributed by Singapore, but included gifts from Deli (Dutch Sumatra), Perak, and Kadeh, a feudatory State of Siam. The *Register* newspaper at Adelaide collected and remitted £259. The *Perseveranza* of Milan and *Dagblad* of Stockholm may also be mentioned. The warmest thanks are due to the "Fourth Estate" for its invaluable and freely given aid.

Fiji.

Distress, such as an Indian Famine brings in its train, has elicited many touching incidents of self-denial in order to relieve the suffering. For instance, in Fiji, out of a subscription of £1,273, kindly raised by the Honourable Mr. Murray and the Honourable Mr. Barron, no less than £811 was subscribed by the immigrant coolies from India, whose wages are but a shilling a day, and of whom many offered spontaneously a week's wages. These coolies also remitted in four months direct to India, no less than £1,053. Similar subscriptions came from Indians in Trinidad, Demerara and Mauritius. The Indians in Natal contributed £1,194 to the Fund, £1,492 raised by the Mayor of Durban. The girls at a large school in Ceylon, the Bishop of Colombo reports, at their own suggestion, gave up part of their meals for a week, so that the saving might be sent to the Famine Fund. The Governor of Orebro, in Sweden, sent £2-6-7 contributed by school children and children going to their first Communion. Nor were the children of the London Board-schools behind, while the school children of the district of Auckland in New Zealand sent no less a sum than £260. A mite of R27-8-0 was contributed by 40 little girls attending a Mission School in Silchar. The Town-clerk of Invercargill, New Zealand, apologised for sending what he considered a small sum as he had only just closed a subscription for a number of small farmers who had suffered from an inundation and a second list of the same character was still lying in his office. In Canada also the number of school subscriptions was very great. No doubt were the contributors to all the subscription lists known, especially those of the United Kingdom, these instances of self-denial could be multiplied a hundred-fold. The Central Committee, however, need only mention some of the examples that have come under their immediate notice, as proving, even though no proof was required, the wide sympathy aroused by the Indian Famine.

Natal.

Schools and other  
special subscrip-  
tions.

In Appendix B, page 122, will be found the official opinions recorded by Local Governments, of the benefits which the Fund has conferred upon India and the gratitude of her people, and the Central Committee may suitably conclude their report by an extract from an official Note upon the Famine by Mr. T. W. Holderness, C. S. I., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department (Famine) which they have been permitted to republish.

Note on the value  
of the fund by the  
Deputy Secretary  
in the Famine  
Bureau of the  
Government of  
India.

The operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund do not come within the scope of this narrative, but no account of the famine of 1896-97 would be complete which omitted mention of this most signal and beneficent manifestation of national benevolence. The sentiments of gratitude and appreciation evoked in India by this great tribute of England's charity have been vividly described by those charged with its distribution. Here it may be permissible to dwell on the almost incalculable value of the Fund as an agency in alleviating human suffering, and in restoring thousands of ruined agriculturists to their place in society. The responsibilities accepted by the State in India in a time of famine are very great. It undertakes to keep the people alive, and it helps them by

The list of the members of the Central Executive Committee which, it will be observed, included representatives from almost every part of India, has already been given on page 6 of the First Report:—

Colonel Ottley, C.B., R.E. (now Brigadier-General and Commanding Royal Engineers with the Tirah Expeditionary Force, and previously Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department), was the first Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee. Colonel Ottley organised the Central Office, and was most assiduous and successful in starting the appeals for subscriptions. Unfortunately, on the 22nd March 1897, his services were lost to the Committee owing to a severe illness, and the Honorable Mr. H. E. M. James, C.S.I., Commissioner in Sind, was placed on special duty by the Government of India as Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary. Mr. James undertook a tour throughout the whole of India, inspecting the operations of the Provincial Committees, collecting information and making suggestions, and his services in these respects, as well as in the general conduct of the business of their office, have been quite invaluable to the Central Committee. To Mr. E. N. Baker, C.S., who filled his place from November to January in addition to other heavy duties the Committee add their grateful thanks.



Dissolution of  
Central  
Committee.

The Central Committee dissolved on the 25th March 1898, after making arrangements to transfer the Government Securities and cash balance at their credit (after payment of outstanding accounts) to the Comptroller-General, and after approving of this report. Their records have been deposited in the office of the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India. The minutes of the 29th and last meeting of the Central Executive Committee will be found in Appendix O, page 146.

CALCUTTA,  
*March 25th, 1898.*

FRANCIS W. MACLEAN,  
*Chairman.*

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## APPENDIX A.

*Letter from Bishop Thoburn about gifts of money and grain from America (see pages 7 and 30 of report).*

APOLLO BUNDER, BOMBAY.

23rd October 1897.

To

H. E. M. JAMES, Esq., C.S.,

*Secretary to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,*

*Calcutta.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your favour of the 27th ultimo, I have now the pleasure to send you a list\* of the stations among which grain from the "City of Everett" was distributed, with the number of railway waggons sent to each place. These waggons contained a minimum of fourteen tons, this being a condition of carriage. They held more, however, and in some cases no doubt the amount sent exceeded that weight. I have gone carefully over the list, and think it accurate, although there may have been some omissions. I am sorry that I cannot give you exactly the amount sent to Government officials, but the Revd. J. O. Denning of Narsingpur, who received twenty-five waggon-loads, and Dr. Johnson of Jubbulpore, who received forty-five waggon-loads, both drew on account of Government officers in their respective districts. At other stations the missionaries were aided by the counsel and in some instances the direct assistance of the magistrates, but I have not been able to gather up these particulars. With one single exception all the reports received concerning the distribution of this grain have been very gratifying. In one place a mistake was made by some of the simple people who ground the American beans into meal, and in making cakes attempted to bake them in the usual way on the coals. The baking was not thoroughly done, and the result was a somewhat serious illness to fifty or more persons. In other places, however, the beans were treated successfully without difficulty, and were highly appreciated. A wretched report found its way into some papers to the effect that the grain was mere refuse and sweepings; but for this there was no foundation, except the bare fact that some of the grain which was spilled on the deck of the ship and on the dock was swept up and distributed to the poor.

It has been extremely gratifying to learn that the gift of this grain has impressed the people much more favourably than any distribution of money which has taken place. In some instances slight disturbances occurred owing to the eagerness of the crowd to get relief, but as a general rule the people waited quietly and patiently until their turn came, and the expressions of gratitude and delight were often very touching. When they saw the strange grain they were convinced that it must have come from a far-off country, and they seemed deeply moved when thus reminded that there were people many thousands of miles distant who cared for them. Had this experiment ever been tried before it might have been carried out on the present occasion on a very much larger scale, but the people in the United States had no experience in this line, knew little or nothing of India, and at the outset made many mistakes. The Government had voted the free carriage of a much larger quantity of grain, and we now regret that arrangements were not consummated for taking advantage on a large scale of the opportunity thus afforded.

In reference to the cash sent to India by Dr. Klopsch, proprietor of the *Christian Herald*, I am able to report the actual receipt by the Committee of which I was chairman of ₹2,80,000. I am expecting daily ₹1,00,000 more, having been notified of its coming, so that it may safely be included in the total. In addition to this Dr. Klopsch, to my knowledge, has sent about ₹40,000 to other parties. I am also thankful to mention the case of the Rev. George Lambert, who came in person to India and distributed about ₹50,000. This, with ₹50,000 sent through the Missionary authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church, makes a total of ₹5,20,000 received in missionary circles from the United States, so far as known to me; but I need hardly say that other sums have been received all over India by parties to whom it would not occur to report to me. I shall send you in a few days a copy of the distribution made by the Committee of which I was chairman, and which met in the Central Provinces. I may remark with reference to the action of that Committee, that its members bore grateful testimony to the assistance

rendered by the Government officials both in the Central Provinces and in North-West India and Oudh. While the best efforts of all parties combined failed to meet fully the great emergency, and to prevent the loss of thousands of lives, yet it is a comfort to believe that all that could be done by human effort was done; and that if death and suffering were not absolutely prevented, yet the sum total of misery caused has been very much less than it otherwise would have been.

Allow me, in conclusion, to express for myself and for my missionary brethren, especially those belonging to our own mission, our unqualified appreciation of the great services which you have rendered to us, and of the admirable manner in which you have discharged the duties of your responsible and difficult situation. Personally, I shall always remember with gratitude my association with you in this good work. I hope to write again in a very few days giving you the particulars asked for in reference to the distribution made of the *Christian Herald* money.

I remain, dear Sir, as ever,

Yours very truly,  
J. M. THOBURN.

P.S.—Orphan statistics will also be forwarded.

## APPENDIX B.

*Extracts from Resolutions of Local Governments in India relative to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897. (See page 33 of report.)*

### BENGAL.

*Government Resolution, Revenue Department, Agricultural (Famine) No. 355 of 11th March 1898.*

As to the general result of the operations of the Fund, the Commissioner of Patna General. observes :—

“The efforts of the Committees working with the assistance of the local officials have succeeded in distributing the large sums at their disposal to very great advantage. It would be presumptuous and absurd to assert that there has been no speculation and no fraud and deceit, but I believe that there has been little of either; while, on the other hand, I am confident that the funds have been wisely administered with for the most part a scrupulous care and economy which was scarcely to be expected at first.”

The outcome of the operations of the Charitable Fund in these Provinces may be summed up in the words of the Provincial Committee:—

“It has fulfilled the purpose for which it was raised. It has lightened the burden of suffering in multitudes of simple homes. It has stretched out a friendly hand to thousands who held aloof from the colder and more formal charity of the State. And if the gratitude of these has not been loudly proclaimed, it is none the less sincere and abiding. The donors of this munificent charity need feel no fear that their splendid gift was unneeded or unwelcome, or that it has failed to bring forth its full fruit in due season for—

“In charity there is no excess: neither can angel nor man come in danger by it.”

The great efforts made by Government and the noble and spontaneous charity of the English people cannot have failed to have imbued the minds of the people with a sense of gratitude and appreciation, and as charity blesseth him that gives as well as him that takes, the intimate relations which the famine operations have entailed between the distressed people and those to whom the administration of relief was entrusted, cannot but have created on both sides a feeling of greater mutual knowledge and sympathy. While the patience and fortitude with which the great mass of the people have borne their undoubted sufferings has evoked the sympathy and admiration of those whose task it was to relieve them, it has been brought home to the minds of those relieved, that Government and its officers have a very real desire and power to assist them.

### MADRAS.

themselves in different parts of the Deccan, to voice their thanks for the help received, and, in their expressions of thanks, the work of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committees has been separately and distinctly acknowledged.

## BOMBAY.

*Government Resolution, No. 2010—Famine, dated 20th December 1897.*

"The administration of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund has been aided by various officers, but in rendering assistance they were not acting in their official capacity, and it is necessary for His Excellency in Council to do no more as regards it than to acknowledge on behalf of the people of this Presidency the immense relief of suffering which has been effected through this magnificent charity."

## NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

*Extract from Resolution of Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh in the Scarcity Department, dated 23rd November 1897.*

The action of the Fund came, therefore, as supplementing and not as superseding the operations of the Government; but in that sphere it had an enormous effect in alleviating the lesser hardships which existed, while the worst effects of the famine were being removed by the Government relief. Undoubtedly, however, the greatest result of the Fund has been the widespread efficacy of the gifts made for the purpose of "restoring to their original position those who had lost their all in the struggle and giving them a fresh start in life". Overwhelming testimony has been received to the excellent effects which the Fund working through this channel has produced. The tale of this great bounty will remain with the people as an abiding memory of the large-hearted charity of the English-speaking public.

Besides the bounty offered by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund there have been other manifestations of charity from outside India, such as the distribution of grain by charitable America; the distribution of clothes sent by the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava; the distribution of money by Lord Radstock's Fund, called "Christian succour to India". And besides all these there has been a free and generous distribution of charity by the well-to-do landed proprietors and merchants throughout the country. It is not possible to gauge the quantity or extent of this last mentioned charity; but it cannot be doubted that it has had a great effect in mitigating the effects of the famine: and it therefore merits grateful recognition in this place.

## PANJAB.

*Extract from a Resolution by the Government of the Punjab forwarded with letter (d.o.) dated 24th February 1898 from the Secretary to Government, Punjab.*

101. It is unnecessary here to enlarge on the invaluable aid rendered by the Indian Charitable Relief Fund in supplement of the efforts of Government to combat the famine. His Honor believes that a perusal of the report of Mr. Atkins, the Joint Secretary of the Provincial Committee, will afford every satisfaction to subscribers, both in this country and in other countries which have contributed to the Indian Relief Fund, that their generosity could not have been applied to more worthy objects, and that the relief and assistance so provided have been fully appreciated by the recipients, and have served to nourish and enhance the feelings of loyalty and devotion which there is reason to believe have been widely created in the districts afflicted by the famine.

125. It remains to notice the good services rendered alike by officials and non-officials in the common cause. It has already been stated that out of the contributions to the Provincial Branch of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund Rs. 3,17,884 were raised within the Province itself. Sir Mackworth Young considers that this is a very munificent contribution for so poor a Province as the Punjab. The liberality of some of the leading Rases and native gentlemen has been most praiseworthy, but the spirit of charity, His Honor learns, pervaded all ranks of society down to the lowest, and the above-mentioned sum which was brought on the books of the Provincial Committee must fall very short of the sum total of charitable effort in the Province. It was in the distribution of the charitable funds that non-officials in this Province rendered such valuable services, and in the arrangements for the administration of the various forms of gratuitous relief under the Famine Code Government often found it necessary to join hands with and enlist the services of the local charitable organizations. Allusion has been made in Chapter VII to the excellent work rendered in this connection by Miss Theobald of the Baptist Mission, Bhiwani, and by other Missionary ladies. The Revd. S. S. Thomas of Delhi as well as the two Secretaries of the Delhi Relief Fund, Lala Jugal Kishore and Khan Sahib Muhammad Hassan, are also specially mentioned. The district reports now under review, however, do not cover the operations of the Relief Fund Committees, which, moreover, were not confined to the districts here treated as famine districts. Reference is

accordingly invited to the Report of Mr. C. H. Atkins, C. S., where the work of non-officials in this branch of famine relief operations is more fully noticed. To Messrs. Masson and Atkins who, as Joint Secretaries of the Provincial Relief Committee, controlled, under the guidance of the Committee, the expenditure of a sum equal to half what was spent on Government relief measures, the thanks of the public and of Government are due.

### CENTRAL PROVINCES.

*Extract from a Resolution on the Famine in the Central Provinces forwarded by the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner with his letter of March 14th, 1898.*

Any account of the administration of the Famine Relief in the Central Provinces during the year 1897 would be incomplete which did not acknowledge the enormous assistance rendered by the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. These operations are described in detail in the report written by the able and devoted Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Committee, Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, C. I. E., and it is unnecessary here to do more than summarise them. The movement began in the Province with a public meeting held at Nagpur, on the 13th February, under the Presidency of the Chief Commissioner. A Provincial Committee was appointed with the Judicial Commissioner as Chairman, and by the 4th April District Committees were at work in every district except Sambalpur. These Committees consisted mainly of non-officials, but in most cases the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner was elected Chairman, and the Committees worked everywhere in the closest touch with the District Officers.

In the allotment of funds the Central Committee dealt with the Central Provinces in a spirit of the most splendid liberality. Recognising from the first, and more clearly after the visit to the Province, in May, of Mr. H. E. M. James, the Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary, the extreme severity of the distress prevailing here, and the poverty of the classes affected, as well as the exhaustion of local resources due to the demands on private charity during the previous years of harvest failure and consequent pressure, they allotted during the Famine the magnificent sum of Rs 32,67,115—a proportion considerably larger than that to which the Province would have been entitled on a strict distribution according to area, population, or numbers on relief; and since the close of the Famine they have added to this a donation of 3 lakhs, to be expended on the maintenance of Famine orphans. The total sum allotted thus reached nearly 36 lakhs, and if to this be added the local receipts, amounting to Rs 75,895, the grand total of charitable expenditure reached about 36½ lakhs. Eighty per cent. of this sum was spent on the fourth object, the restoration to their original position in life of those whom the Famine had left without resources, and in the Central Provinces, an almost purely agricultural country, this naturally took the form of gifts of seed-grain and cattle, or more usually of money for their purchase, to broken-down tenants. “*Khawai*” or “*podga*”—subsistence allowances to cover the period between sowing and harvest—were also freely given. The greatest care was taken to prevent any overlapping of the charitable fund distribution and the Government takavi advances, and, in order to secure this object, the actual distribution was everywhere placed in the hands of the Famine Relief officers. The Government takavi expenditure rose to the unprecedentedly high figure of 10 lakhs, but the amount spent in charity was nearly three times this sum. The largest sums were spent in Jubbulpore (Rs 67,692) and Balaghat (Rs 25,489), and it is estimated that in the latter district from 30,000 to 40,000 acres out of a nominal acreage of 200,000 were sown by means of the help so afforded—a fact which clearly indicates the immense value of the services rendered by the Fund both to the individual recipients and to the country generally.

The maintenance of orphans is a matter which properly falls to be dealt with after the close of a Famine. Throughout the Famine, indeed, allotments were made from the Charitable Fund for clothes and extra comforts to orphans as to other inmates of poor-houses, and some subsidies were paid to private institutions. But the really important matter is the provision, after the close of the Famine, for the bringing up in a decent way of life of the residue of children who are not claimed by parents or relatives and cannot be planted out in the village communities to which they belong. This has been provided for by the munificent grant of 3 lakhs made by the Central Committee, and the final arrangements for the distribution of this fund among the institutions to which Famine orphans have been made over are now being made.

In closing his report on the administration of the Fund the Honorary Secretary says that "the good the Fund has done is simply incalculable". This is no more than the truth. The gifts of clothes and blankets distributed, the grain sold at the cheap shops and the money due to the respectable poor, can be exhibited statistically, and these alone show a vast amount of relief of suffering and distress, much of which must under any system of Government Famine Relief have been impossible. In coming to the rescue of a tenantry broken and disheartened by four successive years of accumulating troubles the Fund has done much to mitigate the worst effects of the Famine, and has carried out that care of the Province over a crisis which without its aid would have ended in widespread ruin. These are great services. The officers charged with the administration of the Province, and those engaged in the work of famine relief, cannot fail to be grateful for the splendid generosity which made such results possible. Whether the people are equally grateful is a question that is answered in many different ways by those who have had the best opportunities of judging. It is said that in some cases the gifts were received with "stolid indifference"; in others that the recipients threw themselves at the feet of the Famine Relief officers and invoked blessings on their heads. The indifference, however, was manifested chiefly in the early part of the famine; the ignorance and mistrust which formed one of the chief difficulties in the way of all Famine Relief measures operated in this instance also; and in the acutest stage of a famine, when life has become a daily struggle for existence, little room is left for the play of the first feelings. As the famine subsided, and as the people came to understand the true character of the Fund, there was no lack of gratitude; the diaries of District Officers which have come in since the close of the Famine are full of instances. To quote the Honorary Secretary's report once more "The tens of thousands who have benefited by the Fund have carried with them the message of good will and sympathy embodied in it to a vast number of homes and to the remotest corners of the Province".

The Indian Famine Charitable Fund has saved many lives and alleviated much suffering; it has given fresh hope and heart to thousands of struggling cultivators, and saved large tracts of land from ruin and desolation, but it is in this message of good will and sympathy from the rulers to the ruled, in the clearing away of misconceptions and the scattering of calumnies, that it has achieved a work which it was as much beyond the power of the Government to accomplish as it is likely to be of lasting benefit both to the people and to those who rule over them.

## BURMA.

*Letter from the Revenue Secretary to the Government of Burma, No. 185 I. S.—13, dated the 12th March, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

I am desired to enclose an extract from a report on the Famine which will shortly be published. In this extract the part played by the Charitable Relief Fund in the alleviation of distress and the facts relating to the distribution of the money allotted are graphically described by the writer who was himself engaged on famine duty throughout the period of distress. The Lieutenant-Governor fully endorses what is there stated regarding the benefits derived from the monies provided by the Fund. The resources of Government had, perforce, to be concentrated on the saving of life. While the resources of individual and local benevolence in a tract where the vast majority of the population derive their wealth from the land were entirely insufficient to meet the demand on them, the money so generously provided by the Indian Charitable Relief Fund has enabled hundreds of peasant proprietors to maintain their independence instead of sinking temporarily or permanently to the position of daily labourers. In this and other ways it has served to alleviate the distress and suffering which a famine necessarily brings in its train.

On behalf of the people of Burma Sir F. Fryer begs to express his gratitude for the liberal assistance afforded by the Fund and for the sympathy of which this assistance was the outward expression.

Yours sincerely,

T. C. WILSON.

H. E. M. JAMES, Esq., C.S.I.,

*Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary,*

*Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

*Extract from the enclosure to the above letter.*

8. It is usually said that the poor are not grateful for charity. I cannot say how it may be elsewhere, but the effect that this present from the rich of England to the distressed of Burma has produced has been very great. In the poor villages perched on the barren slopes of Taungtha and Kyakpadaung this money came as a gift from heaven. Of late years Upper Burma has been surprised at many events—at the conquest, at the repression of crime, at the railway. Nothing has, however, seemed to them so wonderful as that the rich people in England so far away should send them help in their trouble. It will be a memory with them for ever.

## APPENDIX C.

*Rules for the custody and disposal of unspent balances of the Fund, adopted by the Central Committee on 25th March, 1898, with the approval of the Government of India, conveyed in a letter demi-official No. 638, dated 25th March, 1898, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the address of the Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive Committee.*

### RULES.

#### NAME.

1. The Fund shall continue to be known as the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897.

#### OBJECT.

2. The object of the Fund shall be the alleviation, by grants of money or otherwise, of well-authenticated distress from famine, under any of the following heads:—

*Firstly.*—In supplementing the subsistence ration which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for patients in hospitals, for children and the like.

*Secondly.*—In providing for the maintenance of orphans.

*Thirdly.*—In relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of, the destitution which is to be relieved.

*Fourthly.*—In restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.

#### FUNDS.

3. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund shall consist—

*Firstly.*—Of the present unexpended balance of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, excluding sums made over to Local Governments for the maintenance of orphans, but including any balance of such sums which may remain with the Local Governments after the relief of such orphans is complete.

*Secondly.*—Of any unexpended balances of sums collected by or remitted during the famine of 1897 to Provincial or District Committees, which may hereafter be returned to the Committee.

*Thirdly.*—Any subscriptions which may be hereafter remitted for credit to the Fund.

*Fourthly.*—Interest on any investment made under Rule 4.

4. When not required for the immediate relief of distress, the money of the Fund shall, to as large an extent as possible, be invested in the purchase of Government securities, which securities shall remain in the custody of the Comptroller-General, in whose name they shall stand, and he will hold them under the orders of the Committee.

5. The Comptroller-General is authorised to invest in Government securities the interest that accrues on the securities, of his own motion, unless he receives instructions from the Committee to use it otherwise.

6. A personal Ledger Account for the fund shall be kept by the Comptroller, India Treasuries.

7. The Comptroller-General shall submit a yearly account to the Honorary Secretary to the Fund.

#### CONSTITUTION.

8. The control of the Fund shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen, who shall have power to add to their number:—

1. The Chief Justice of Bengal, Chairman.
2. The Member of Council in charge of the Home Department.
3. The President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
4. The President of the British Indian Association.
5. The Honourable A. H. Wallis, while resident in Calcutta.

The Committee may appoint an Honorary Secretary to the Fund.

## RELIEF.

9. Funds for the immediate work of relief shall be provided, at the discretion of the Committee, from time to time by the sale of a portion of the securities belonging to the Fund.

10. Should any demand for relief immediately arising out of the famine of 1897 occur, such as for the maintenance of orphans for whom sufficient provision may not have been made, it shall be competent for the Committee to allot such sum of money from the Fund as may be considered sufficient to meet the demands of the case.

11. Upon receipt of information from the Government of India or any Local Government that famine or severe distress is prevalent in any part of British India or any Native State, the Committee shall have authority, with the consent of the Government of India, to expend the whole or any part of the Fund, at their discretion, in the alleviation of distress, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 2.

12. Such expenditure may be incurred either in the form of grants of money to the Local Governments, or the Chief Political Officers of Native States, or in any other way that may be approved by the Committee.

13. If hereafter any fund shall be raised by public subscriptions or otherwise for the relief of famine in India, the Committee shall have authority, if they think fit, to merge the whole or any part of their balance in such fund.

14. When the whole of the assets of the Fund shall have been exhausted, the Fund shall be closed, and the Committee shall dissolve. If any surplus should thereafter be found to remain unexpended, it shall be disposed of under the orders of the Government of India.

## GENERAL.

15. The Committee shall publish in the *Gazette of India* in the month of January every year, in such form as it may think fit, a balance sheet of the receipts and expenditure of the Fund, showing the sums, if any, expended under each of the heads set forth in Rule 2.

16. These rules are made and issued with the sanction of the Government of India, and no alteration in them shall be made, except with the approval of the Government of India, but, subject to such approval, the Committee may vary or add to these rules, as in their discretion they may deem necessary.

*Dated 25th March 1898.*

FRANCIS W. MACLEAN,

*Chairman, Central Executive Committee,  
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

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## APPENDIX D.

*Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 12th March 1898.*

	£ s. d.	R a. p.	R a. p.
<b>UNITED KINGDOM—</b>			
Mansion House . . . . .	542,831 16 11	86,59,625 0 4	
Lancashire . . . . .	131,012 0 0	20,79,000 0 0	
Glasgow . . . . .	54,558 7 1	8,60,790 0 0	
Liverpool . . . . .	26,092 0 0	4,09,937 11 6	
Edinburgh . . . . .	17,690 14 7	2,76,981 3 4	
Miscellaneous . . . . .	969 7 8	15,401 9 1	
			1,23,01,735 8 3
£	773,154 6 3		
<b>CANADA—</b>			
	.....	.....	5,70,521 14 6
<b>AUSTRALIA—</b>			
<b>VICTORIA—</b>			
Melbourne . . . . .	5,849 18 0	91,650 7 9	
Ballarat . . . . .	147 14 6	2,228 14 11	
NEW SOUTH WALES.	1,280 17 7	20,199 7 6	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.			
Perth . . . . .	1,387 3 1	21,832 0 0	
Karridale . . . . .	48 6 3	760 5 1	
<b>QUEENSLAND.</b>			
Brisbane . . . . .	530 0 0	8,343 6 2	
Toowoomba . . . . .	124 4 10	1,970 9 2	
Rockhampton . . . . .	43 0 0	682 5 0	
Normanton . . . . .	5 2 0	80 4 0	
Maryborough . . . . .	87 4 0	1,395 3 2	
Townsville . . . . .	8 7 6	131 12 10	
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>			
Adelaide . . . . .	359 5 5	5,827 14 3	
Boolero . . . . .	1 0 0	15 12 0	
			1,55,118 5 10
£	9,872 3 2		
Carried forward Rs.			1,30,27,375 12 7

*Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 12th March 1898—continued.*

	£ s. d.	R a. p.	R a. p.
		Brought forward Rs.	1,30,27,375 12 7
<b>NEW ZEALAND—</b>			
New Plymouth . . . .	2 14 0	43 3 0	
Wanganui . . . . .	202 1 4	3,184 3 10	
Auckland . . . . .	407 15 9	6,658 9 3	
Timam . . . . .	5 10 2	88 2 0	
Wellington . . . . .	17 2 3	253 11 5	
Greymouth . . . . .	61 13 9	1,012 4 10	
Invercargill . . . . .	34 14 1	555 4 2	
Dunedin . . . . .	288 11 10	4,560 7 0	
Hokitika . . . . .	50 0 0		
Napier . . . . .	520 19 8		
Westport . . . . .	42 2 9		
Waimate . . . . .	11 0 6	16,084 1 2	
City of Christchurch . . .	305 4 11		
Palmerston North . . . .	63 0 0		
£	2,012 11 0		32,439 14 8
<b>TASMANIA—</b>			
Launceston . . . . .	304 15 3	4,910 6 3	
Hobart . . . . .	122 2 0	1,931 6 5	
East Devonport . . . . .	5 0 0	80 2 0	
£	431 17 3		6,921 14 8
<b>CHINA—</b>			
Hongkong . . . . .	... ..	83,035 2 0	
Shanghai . . . . .	.....	54,006 11 7	
Tientsin . . . . .	.....	2,409 1 11	
Miscellaneous . . . . .	.....	51 3 5	
			1,39,502 2 11
		Carried forward Rs.	1,32,06,239 12 10

*Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 12th March 1898—continued.*

	£ s. d.	R a. p.	R a. p.
		Brought forward Rs.	1,32,06,239 12 10
<u>JAPAN—</u>			
Yokohama . . . . .	.....	30,314 14 1	
Hiogo . . . . .	.....	15,159 13 10	
Nagasaki . . . . .	.....	1,743 0 0	
Miscellaneous . . . . .	.....	3,552 1 10	
			50,769 13 9
<u>RUSSIA—</u>			
	4,333 0 0	69,423 5 9	
Odessa . . . . .	1,863 6 9	28,735 12 9	
			98,159 2 8
£	6,196 6 9		
<u>U. S. AMERICA—</u>			
“Christian Herald,”			
New York . . . . .		15,399 15 0	
Boston . . . . .		5,357 7 3	
Miscellaneous . . . . .		897 5 8	
			21,654 11 11
<u>CEYLON—</u>	.....	.....	1,47,215 0 6
<u>STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—</u>	.....	.....	68,520 3 4
<u>DEMERARA—</u>	.....	.....	364 12 0
<u>GIBRALTAR—</u>	994 6 3	.....	15,745 0 4
<u>NATAL—</u>			
Durban . . . . .	1,493 19 10		24,006 4 2
<u>TRINIDAD—</u>	422 0 0		6,979 10 10
<u>MAURITIUS—</u>	.....	.....	13,000 0 0
<u>SIAM—</u>			
Bangkok . . . . .	.....	.....	6,221 1 11
<u>SWEDEN—</u>	.....	.....	5,627 14 10
<u>SWEDEN, DENMARK AND FINLAND (JOINT)—</u>	11 6 8	.....	187 6 0
<u>NETHERLANDS—</u>	.....	.....	1,988 7 9
		Carried forward Rs.	1,36,66,679 6 8

*Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 12th March 1898—concluded.*

	£	s.	d.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
				Brought forward Rs.			1,36,66,679	6	8
<u>GERMANY—</u>	25	0	0				395	0	11
<u>ITALY—</u>							190	0	0
<u>PALESTINE—</u>	38	2	0				600	13	3
<u>ARABIA—</u>							200	0	0
<u>TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC—</u>	218	0	0				3,569	12	10
<u>FIJI—</u>	6	11	0				102	0	6
<u>INDIA—</u>									
Collected by the following Provincial Branches—									
Bengal . . . . .				44,802	12	4			
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . . .				5,000	0	0			
Punjab . . . . .				1,226	9	0			
Madras . . . . .				73,045	11	4			
Godavari (Madras) . . . . .				4,689	11	7			
Burma . . . . .				86,371	1	9			
Central India . . . . .				5	0	0			
Mysore . . . . .				88,233	11	0			
Schools . . . . .				1,487	13	0			
Ecclesiastical and Offertory Collections				13,737	0	5			
Individuals not otherwise classified . . . . .				1,62,375	15	4			
Merchants of Calcutta . . . . .				2,89,850	0	0			
Rajahs, Nawabs, etc. (chiefly in Bengal) . . . . .				82,100	0	0			
Regiments and Batteries . . . . .				13,418	0	11			
Station Hospitals . . . . .				415	10	0			
Trades of Calcutta . . . . .				27,165	0	0			
Collections by Public Works Officers, Planters, Masonic Lodges, and miscellaneous.				57,633	14	10			
							9,51,557	15	6
				GRAND TOTAL Rs.			1,46,23,295	1	8

NOTES—

(1) In addition to the above-mentioned contributions from British Colonies and Foreign Countries, a number of subscriptions from abroad were forwarded direct to the Lord Mayor of London, and these amounts have been included in the Mansion House remittances. Thus Fiji contributed £1,273, out of which only £6-11-0 was sent to India direct.

(2) Several of the Sterling amounts given in the foregoing list are only approximate, and not exact—the remittance having been received in Rupees and the Sterling equivalents calculated approximately.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, *Chartered Accountants,*  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

*List showing the total subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee, each month, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 12th March 1898.*

								R	a.	p.
Total amount received in January	1897	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,85,415	9	11
Do.	do.	„	February	„	.	.	.	44,28,598	8	0
Do.	do.	„	March	„	.	.	.	51,04,263	3	11
Do.	do.	„	April	„	.	.	.	12,20,270	8	8
Do.	do.	„	May	„	.	.	.	12,87,703	15	4
Do.	do.	„	June	„	.	.	.	11,32,633	2	9
Do.	do.	„	July	„	.	.	.	4,10,141	7	6
Do.	do.	„	August	„	.	.	.	2,31,358	12	5
Do.	do.	„	September	„	.	.	.	95,804	1	0
Do.	do.	„	October	„	.	.	.	1,32,795	2	4
Do.	do.	„	November	„	.	.	.	4,399	8	9
Do.	do.	„	December	„	.	.	.	42,723	1	3
Do.	do.	„	January 1898	.	.	.	.	28,176	6	11
Do.	do.	„	February	„	.	.	.	18,968	5	9
Do.	do.	„	Up to 12th March 1898	.	.	.	.	43	3	2
TOTAL Rs								1,46,23,295	1	8

*List of amounts received up to 31st January 1898, by the Provincial and District Committees, to be expended locally.*

Province.	Amount.
	R a. p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	4,76,471 5 0
Central Provinces	75,894 15 7
Bengal	4,72,903 0 6
Bombay	2,96,404 0 4
Madras	2,74,172 3 10
Punjab	3,17,342
Central India	74,254
Burma	16,650 3 7
Berar	88,769 4 4
Rajputana	Nil
Baluchistan	Nil
TOTAL Rs.	20,93,705 2 7
Miscellaneous Receipts by Provincial and District Committees	2,95,815 8 2
GRAND TOTAL Rs.	1,70,12,815 12 5

\* Includes R7-7-0 collected for General Fund.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

**APPENDIX E.**

## APPENDIX E.

## LIST OF REMITTANCES MADE BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO BRANCHES.

	25th January. 1897.	1st February. 1897.	8th February. 1897.	16th February. 1897.	8th March. 1897.	22nd March. 1897.	29th March. 1897.	11th May. 1897.	15th June. 1897.	30th June. 1897.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH.	40,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	1,30,000 0 0	2,50,000 0 0	2,50,000 0 0	9,65,761 0 0	13,02,551 0 0	10,00,000 0 0	.....	...
CENTRAL PROVINCES.	15,000 0 0	30,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	3,35,250 0 0	519 0 0	11,00,000 0 0	.....	55,000 0 0
BENGAL . .	30,000 0 0	40,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	6,23,750 0 0	61,325 4 0	3,50,000 0 0	.....	1,50,000 0 0
BOMBAY . .	15,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	.....	.....	1,00,000 0 0	5,59,750 0 0	250 0 0	.....	.....	...
MADRAS . .	5,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	.....	.....	1,00,000 0 0	1,03,750 0 0	10 0 0	1,45,833 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0
PUNJAB . .	5,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	.....	1,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	3,750 0 0	2,12,633 0 0	4,00,000 0 0	.....	...
CENTRAL INDIA	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,00,000 0 0	.....	1,25,000 0 0	.....	...
UPPER BURMA	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,25,000 0 0	.....	75,000 0 0	.....	...
BERAR . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,000 0 0	.....	25,000 0 0	.....	20,000 0 0
BALUCHISTAN	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
RAJPUTANA .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,000 0 0	.....	...
TOTAL . .	1,10,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	3,30,000 0 0	5,50,000 0 0	9,50,000 0 0	29,82,031 0 0	15,80,318 4 0	35,15,833 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	6,05,000 0 0

	20th July. 1897.	12th August. 1897.	6th September. 1897.	20th September. 1897.	10th October. 1897.	29th November. 1897.	11th January. 1898.	Total allotments.	Amounts refunded.	Net amounts remitted to Provincial Committees.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH.	5,75,325 2 1	...	...	...	75,000 0 0	...	...	46,63,637 2 1	...	46,63,637 2 1
CENTRAL PROVINCES.	8,09,203 8 0	...	...	60,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	40,000 0 0	...	33,07,038 8 0	...	33,07,633 8 0
BENGAL . .	2,05,603 13 6	..	...	...	...	...	...	18,61,709 2 6	3,25,000 0 0	15,30,709 2 6
BOMBAY . .	3,50,250 0 0	...	60,000 0 0	50,000 0 0	60,000 0 0	...	...	13,61,250 0 0	...	13,61,250 0 0
MADRAS . .	2,00,204 8 0	1,00,000 0 0	...	..	..	...	33,045 11 4	12,97,923 3 4	...	12,97,923 3 4
PUNJAB . .	75,000 0 0	...	...	..	...	...	...	9,66,523 0 0	42,000 0 0	8,61,523 0 0
CENTRAL INDIA	1,00,000 0 0	25,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	3,50,000 0 0	...	3,50,000 0 0
UPPER BURMA	25,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	40,000 0 0	...	25,000 0 0	..	...	3,00,000 0 0	...	3,00,000 0 0
BERAR . .	10,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	...	..	...	...	...	1,10,000 0 0	...	1,10,000 0 0
BALUCHISTAN	20,000 0 0	..	..	...	...	...	...	20,000 0 0	...	20,000 0 0
RAJPUTANA .	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	25,000 0 0	7,877 0 11	17,122 15 1
TOTAL . .	21,63,113 6 7	1,41,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	1,10,000 0 0	3,00,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	33,045 11 4	1,42,20,210 15 11	3,71,877 0 11	1,32,45,333 15 6

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Account of Receipts and Expenditure to the end of October 1897.

Cr.

1897 October 31st.	To total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee, from the inauguration of the Fund, to date	R a. p.	1897 October 31st.	By net payments made to Provincial Committees, as follows, to date—	R a. p.	R a. p.
		1,45,28,984 7 10		North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch	46,68,763 12 1 <sup>(1)</sup>	
				Central Provinces Branch	32,67,115 2 0 <sup>(2)</sup>	
				Bengal Branch	15,89,709 2 6 <sup>(3)</sup>	
				Bombay "	13,64,250 0 0	
				Madras "	12,64,877 8 0	
				Punjab "	9,06,583 0 0	
				Central India Branch	3,50,050 0 0	
				Burma "	3,06,000 0 0	
				Berar "	1,10,000 0 0	
				Baluchistan "	20,000 0 0	
				Rajputana "	17,500 0 0 <sup>(4)</sup>	1,38,64,848 8 7
				By Amount paid for 2,500 Blankets for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch		2,968 12 0
				" Amount granted to the Right Revd. J. M. Thoburn, D. D., to assist in the distribution of the Grain ex S.S. "City of Everett" from the United States of America		20,000 0 0
				" Amount paid to Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited		5,726 14 9
				" Amount remitted to Miss Marston, Zenana Mission, Lucknow, to be expended in the purchase of Saries as expressly desired by the donor		270 8 8
				" Amount paid to the Pioneer Press for circulating the monthly Subscription Lists, to the subscribers to the "Pioneer"		1,167 3 0
				" Amount paid for Carriage, etc., on Gifts in kind to various stations in India		1,795 9 6
				" Amount transferred from the Fund for Office Expenses, Stationery, etc.		5,500 0 0
				" Miscellaneous		19 1 0
				" Amount invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper.		6,00,000 0 0
				" Balance with the Bank of Bengal		26,687 14 4
	TOTAL R	1,45,28,984 7 10		TOTAL R		1,45,28,984 7 10

Notes.—<sup>(1)</sup> This includes a sum of Rs 76-10-0 remitted for expenditure on Saries as expressly desired by the donor.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Vide* foot note (1).

<sup>(3)</sup> The total amount paid to the Bengal Committee was Rs 18,64,709-2-6, of which Rs 2,75,000 have been refunded to date.

<sup>(4)</sup> The amount originally remitted to the A. G. G., Rajputana, was Rs 25,000, of which Rs 7,500 have been returned to date.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.



# APPENDIX G.

## CASH ACCOUNT of Provincial Committees from the commencement of operations, up to the 31st October 1897.

### RECEIPTS.

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	Remittances from Central Committee.			Local subscriptions for the Province.			Other Receipts (Miscellaneous).			Totals.		
	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . . .	40,68,763	12	1 <sup>(1)</sup>	4,74,597	6	11	2,792	8	11	51,46,163	11	11
Central Provinces . . . . .	32,67,115	2	0 <sup>(2)</sup>	75,894	15	7	8,909	4	6	33,51,019	6	1
Bengal . . . . .	15,89,709	2	6 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,70,137	8	9	1,42,058	1	4	22,02,804	12	7
Bombay . . . . .	13,64,250	0	0	2,95,819	6	1	6,851	6	0	16,66,920	12	1
Madras . . . . .	12,64,877	8	0	2,50,105	5	1	11,633	8	8 <sup>(4)</sup>	15,26,016	5	9
Punjab . . . . .	9,06,583	0	0	3,17,884	2	7	43,054	4	0 <sup>(5)</sup>	12,67,521	6	7
Central India . . . . .	3,50,050	0	0	74,725	14	9	715	12	9 <sup>(6)</sup>	4,25,491	11	0
Burma . . . . .	3,06,000	0	0 <sup>(7)</sup>	16,950	2	7	21	8	0	3,22,971	10	7
Petar . . . . .	1,10,000	0	0	87,186	5	10	400	1	7	1,97,586	7	5
Baluchistan . . . . .	20,000	0	0	.....			.....			20,000	0	0
Rajputana . . . . .	17,500	0	0 <sup>(8)</sup>	.....			.....			17,500	0	0
TOTAL R . . . . .	1,38,64,848	8	7	20,63,001	4	2	2,17,330	7	9	1,61,45,186	4	6

(1) This includes a sum of Rs 75-10-0 remitted for expenditure on Sates as expressly desired by the donor.

(2) See footnote (1).

(3) The sum of Rs 8,61,709-2-6 was originally remitted to Bengal by the Central Committee, but of this Rs 2,75,000 had been refunded up to the 31st October 1897.

(4) This includes the sum of Rs 1,175-10-3, the balance of a former Famine Fund.

(5) This includes the sum of Rs 359-11-7, the opening balance in the Gurkha District.

(6) This includes the sum of Rs 356, the opening balance in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand Districts.

(7) This sum includes a remittance of Rs 3,000-0-0, forwarded by the Central Committee on the 27th October 1897, but which did not reach the Provincial Committee at Bangalore till November. Consequently the amount is not included in their account to the 31st October.

(8) Out of this amount the sum of Rs 77-0-11 has since been refunded to the Central Committee.

# APPENDIX G—contd.

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897.

## EXPENDITURE.

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	CLOSING BALANCES.		TOTALS.
							With Provincial Committees.	With District Committees.	
	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	2,53,959 15 3	11,971 0 7	9,86,306 15 5	35,61,253 8 2	10,168 9 6	48,23,720 0 11	1,13,518 6 10	2,08,915 4 2	51,46,163 11 11
Central Provinces	1,05,615 14 11 <sup>(1)</sup>	31,389 5 9	1,22,165 7 1	26,52,432 12 7	13,906 7 4	29,25,569 15 8	2,027 4 6	4,24,322 1 11	33,51,919 6 1
Bengal	2,11,235 10 5	13,505 5 2	8,84,908 5 10	8,09,947 9 3	26,883 10 10	19,46,480 9 6	1,04,605 7 7 <sup>(10)</sup>	1,51,718 11 6	22,02,804 12 7
Bombay	1,53,030 12 4	13,083 3 7	1,60,998 12 3	9,03,251 13 7	3,525 7 7	12,39,950 1 4	73,372 15 9	3,53,597 11 0	16,60,920 12 1
Madras	36,236 2 2	356 7 7	1,14,635 10 3	11,99,435 6 2	6,399 2 7	13,57,002 12 9	1,12,091 3 10	57,522 5 2	15,26,616 5 9
Punjab	10,022 8 7	929 9 0	2,37,577 14 8	8,85,855 11 9	12,297 2 6	10,96,682 14 6	53,821 15 7	1,17,016 8 6	12,67,521 6 7
Central India	19,843 12 8	1,348 3 8	32,486 5 8	3,10,623 5 0 <sup>(11)</sup>	399 15 0	3,64,701 10 0	21,490 11 6	39,296 6 0	4,25,491 11 6
Burma	8,876 9 3	.....	375 0 0	2,18,386 8 0	149 7 0	2,27,787 8 3	40,131 15 7 <sup>(12)</sup>	54,752 2 9	3,22,671 10 7
Benar	54,058 15 8	2,966 7 10	50,713 10 4	67,274 0 10	1,749 14 2	1,77,363 0 10	6,510 12 3	13,712 10 4	1,97,586 7 5
Baluchistan	.....	.....	.....	20,000 0 0	.....	20,000 0 0	.....	.....	20,000 0 0
Rajputana	7,201 15 2	1,346 12 9	1,451 4 1	7,122 15 1	.....	17,122 15 1	397 0 11 <sup>(13)</sup>	.....	17,500 0 0
TOTAL R.	8,00,742 4 5	76,896 7 11	25,91,079 5 7	1,05,91,643 10 5	75,419 12 6	1,41,96,381 8 10	5,27,947 14 4	14,20,856 13 4	1,61,45,186 4 6

(1) Joint expenditure under Objects I and II.

(10) This includes Rs17,900 with Commissioners of Divisions.

(11) Includes Rs20,798, unclassified expenditure.

(12) Vide footnote (7).

(13) This amount has since been refunded to the Central Committee.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Statement showing the combined Accounts of the Central, Provincial, and District Committees to the 31st October 1897.

APPENDIX H.

1897 October 31st	RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.		Cr.	
	To total amount of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee.	R a. p. 1,45,28,984 7 10	By amount expended under Object I . " Ditto ditto " Ditto ditto " Ditto ditto	R a. p. ... ... ...	R a. p. 8,60,742 4 5 76,896 7 11 25,91,679 5 7 1,05,91,643 10 5	
	To Local Subscriptions received by Provincial and District Committees.	20,63,001 4 2	By Miscellaneous Expenditure— (1) Central Committee (2) Provincial and District Committees	... 37,448 0 11(1) 75,419 12 6		
	To Miscellaneous . . . . .	2,17,336 7 9	By Closing Balances:— (1) With Central Committee (2) " Provincial Committees (3) " District Committees	TOTAL EXPENDITURE 6,26,687 14 4(2) 5,27,947 14 4 1,42,085 13 4		138
	TOTAL R	1,68,09,322 3 9				25,75,492 10 0
			TOTAL	R	1,68,09,322 3 9	

(1) This amount includes Rs. 2,068-12-0 expended on Blankets for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Rs. 20,000 granted to the Right Revd. Bishop J. M. Thoburn for expenditure in connection with the distribution of the American grain per S. S. "City of Everett".  
(2) Includes Rs. 6,00,000 reserved for orphans and invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

# APPENDIX I.

## INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

*Account of Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.*

Cr.

	R	a.	p.		R	a.	p.
To Balance on the 1st November 1897 . . . . .	26,537	14	4	By Payments made to Provincial Committees, as follows, to date :—			
" Amount invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper . . . . .	6,00,000	0	0				
" Total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee, from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898 . . . . .	75,299	0	11	Central Provinces Branch . . . . .	40,076	10	0
" Amounts refunded by Provincial Committees during the above period, as follows :—				Madras " . . . . .	33,045	11	4
Bengal Branch . . . . .	50,000	0	0	Freight from London and other charges on 14 cases of Biscuits . . . . .	73,122	5	4
Punjab " . . . . .	42,000	0	0	" Amount transferred from the Fund for Office expenses, Stationery, etc. . . . .	112	11	6
Rajputana " . . . . .	377	0	11	" Amount invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper . . . . .	3,000	0	0
North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch . . . . .	76	10	0	" Amount previously invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper during this period . . . . .	6,00,000	0	0
				" Balance with the Bank of Bengal . . . . .	6,65,000	0	0
					53,205	9	4
TOTAL R . . . . .	794,440	10	2	TOTAL R . . . . .	7,94,440	10	2

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LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

# APPENDIX J.

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.

RECEIPTS.

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	OPENING BALANCES.		Remittances from Central Committees.	Local subscription for the Province.	Other Receipts (Miscellaneous).	TOTAL.
	With Provincial Committees.	With District Committees.				
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	R a. p. 1,13,518 6 10	R a. p. 2,08,915 4 2	R a. p. —76 10 0(?)	R a. p. 1,873 14 1	R a. p. 3,560 15 8	R a. p. 3,27,791 14 9
Central Provinces	2,027 4 6	4,24,322 1 11	40,076 10 0(?)	.....	38,486 12 9	5,04,912 13 2
Bengal { Balance as per Appendix G General subscriptions in hand, not remitted and not previously shewn }	1,16,912 7 5(?) 12,306 15 10	1,51,718 11 6 3,53,597 11 0	..... .....	2,765 7 9 General 14,065 0 0	..... 4,607 3 2	..... 2,99,068 13 10
Bombay	73,372 15 9	57,522 5 2	33,045 11 4	584 10 3	1,581 7 2	4,29,136 12 2
Madras	1,12,091 3 10	1,17,016 8 6	.....	23,896 14 10(?)	3 15 0	2,26,560 2 2
Punjab	53,831 15 7	39,299 6 0	.....	.....	4,302 0 0	1,75,140 8 1
Central India	21,490 11 6	54,752 2 9	.....	.....	24,627 14 9	85,418 0 3
Burma (1)	40,131 15 7(?)	13,712 10 4	.....	0 1 0	.....	94,884 3 4
Berar	6,510 12 3	.....	.....	1,582 14 6	1,308 11 11	23,115 1 0
Rajputana	377 0 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	377 0 11
Baluchistan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL R	5,40,254 14 2	14,20,856 13 4	73,045 11 4	44,768 14 5	78,479 0 5	21,57,405 5 8

(1) Amount returned to the Central Committee.  
 (2) Includes the sum of Rs. 6,100-0-0 remitted by the Central Committee for the purchase of Series as desired by the donor.  
 (3) Includes Rs. 12,000 with Commissioners of Divisions.  
 (4) This includes Rs. 7-0-0 collected for the General Fund in Madras.  
 (5) This includes a sum of Rs. 35,000 remitted by the Central Committee to the Burma Provincial Committee on the 27th October 1897, but which did not reach Rangoon until November 1897.

# APPENDIX J—continued.

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.

## EXPENDITURE.

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Refunded to Central Committee.	CLOSING BALANCES.		TOTAL.
								With Provincial Committee.	With District Committees.	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . .	R a. p. 9,634 13 2	R a. p. 12,428 11 5	R a. p. —70 14 6	R a. p. 27,035 11 9	R a. p. 14,779 4 6	R a. p. 63,807 10 4	R a. p. .....	R a. p. 2,63,984 4 5	R a. p. .....	R a. p. 3,27,791 14 9
Central Provinces . . . .	1,10,159 4 1	1,467 10 4	31,120 0 6	2,90,299 3 0	6,547 3 5	4,39,593 5 4	.....	336 5 5	64,993 2 5	5,04,912 13 2
Bengal . . . .	23,672 14 4	26,661 1 9 <sup>(1)</sup>	5,074 15 6	59,630 10 10 <sup>(2)</sup>	4,116 10 8	1,19,156 5 1	59,000 0 0 14,000 0 0 General.	69,697 6 8 12,371 15 10 General.	24,843 2 3	2,90,068 13 10
Bombay . . . .	46,181 14 6	1,044 8 11	28,703 2 7	1,67,530 4 3	1,540 11 0	2,45,000 9 3	.....	71,448 0 9	1,12,688 2 2	4,29,136 12 2
Madras . . . .	113 4 2	20,139 2 0	2,499 1 9	44,653 3 8	1,005 2 2	68,409 13 9	.....	97,433 3 10	60,717 0 7	2,26,560 2 2
Punjab . . . .	4,725 0 0	2,790 0 0	18,713 0 0	49,576 0 0	1,336 0 0	77,140 0 0	42,000 0 0	29,490 0 1	26,510 8 0	1,75,140 8 1
Central India . . . .	1,300 1 0	8,031 15 0	2,320 6 3	61,492 7 6 <sup>(3)</sup>	231 1 0	73,375 14 9	.....	1,047 11 6	10,994 6 0	85,418 0 3
Burma <sup>(4)</sup> . . . .	69 12 0	.....	35 0 0	81,037 10 9	336 12 0	81,479 2 9	.....	13,256 9 7	148 7 0	94,884 3 4
Berar . . . .	3,671 8 2	4,352 7 7	3,219 13 8	3,733 15 3	418 13 0	15,396 7 8	.....	901 15 3	6,816 10 1	23,115 1 0
Rajputana . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	377 0 11	.....	.....	377 0 11
Baluchistan . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL R . . . .	1,99,528 7 5	76,915 9 0	91,614 9 9	7,84,989 1 0	39,311 9 9	11,83,359 4 11	1,06,377 0 11	5,59,957 9 4	3,07,711 6 6	21,57,405 5 8

(1) Includes Rs25,000 remitted to the Government of Bengal for the future maintenance of orphans.

(2) Includes Rs50,000 for the relief of sufferers from the Chittagong cyclone.

(3) Includes Rs3,933 3-0 unclassified expenditure.

(4) The accounts for Burma were made out to the 28th February 1898.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

# APPENDIX J.

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.

## RECEIPTS.

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	OPENING BALANCES.		Remittances from Central Committees.	Local subscription for the Province.	Other Receipts (Miscellaneous).	TOTAL.
	With Provincial Committees.	With District Committees.				
	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.	R. a. p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,13,518 6 10	2,08,915 4 2	—76 10 0 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,873 14 1	3,560 15 8	3,27,791 14 9
Central Provinces	2,027 4 6	4,24,322 1 11	40,076 10 0 <sup>(2)</sup>	.....	38,486 12 9	5,04,912 13 2
Bengal. { Balance as per Appendix G	1,16,912 7 5 <sup>(3)</sup>	1,51,718 11 6	.....	2,765 7 9 } General 14,065 0 0 }	4,607 3 2	2,90,068 13 10
General subscriptions in hand, not remitted and not previously shewn						
Bombay	73,372 15 9	3,53,597 11 0	.....	584 10 3	1,581 7 2	4,29,136 12 2
Madras	1,12,091 3 10	57,522 5 2	33,045 11 4	23,896 14 10 <sup>(4)</sup>	3 15 0	2,26,560 2 2
Punjab	53,821 15 7	1,17,016 8 6	.....	.....	4,302 0 0	1,75,140 8 1
Central India	21,490 11 6	39,299 6 0	.....	.....	24,627 14 9	85,418 0 3
Burma <sup>(5)</sup>	40,131 15 7 <sup>(6)</sup>	54,752 2 9	.....	0 1 0	.....	94,884 3 4
Berar	6,510 12 3	13,712 10 4	.....	1,582 14 6	1,308 11 11	23,115 1 0
Rajputana	377 0 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	377 0 11
Baluchistan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL R.	5,40,254 14 2	14,20,856 13 4	73,045 11 4	44,768 14 5	78,479 0 5	21,57,405 5 8

(1) Amount returned to the Central Committee.

(2) Includes the sum of Rs. 6-10-0 remitted by the Central Committee for the purchase of Sarias as desired by the donor.

(3) Includes Rs. 7,900 with Commissioners of Divisions.

(4) This includes Rs. 7-0 collected for the General Fund in Madras.

(5) This includes a sum of Rs. 35,000 remitted by the Central Committee to the Burma Provincial Committee on the 27th October 1897, but which did not reach Rangoon until November 1897.

# APPENDIX J—continued.

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.

## EXPENDITURE.

NAMES OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Refunded to Central Committee.	CLOSING BALANCES.		TOTAL.
								With Provincial Committee.	With District Committees.	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh . . . .	R a p. 9,634 13 2	R a p. 12,428 11 5	R a p. —70 14 6	R a p. 27,035 11 9	R a p. 14,779 4 6	R a p. 63,807 10 4	R a p. .....	R a p. 2,63,984 4 5	R a p. .....	R a p. 3,27,791 14 9
Central Provinces . . . .	1,10,159 4 1	1,467 10 4	31,120 0 6	2,90,299 3 0	6,547 3 5	4,39,593 5 4	.....	326 5 5	64,993 2 5	5,04,912 13 2
Bengal . . . .	23,672 14 4	26,661 1 9 <sup>(1)</sup>	5,074 15 6	59,630 10 10 <sup>(2)</sup>	4,116 10 8	1,19,156 5 1	{ 50,000 0 0 14,000 0 0 General.	69,697 6 8 12,371 15 10 General.	24,843 2 3	2,90,068 13 10
Bombay . . . .	46,181 14 6	1,044 8 11	28,703 2 7	1,67,530 4 3	1,540 11 0	2,45,000 9 3	.....	71,448 0 9	1,12,688 2 2	4,29,136 12 2
Madras . . . .	113 4 2	20,139 2 0	2,499 1 9	44,653 3 8	1,005 2 2	68,409 13 9	.....	97,433 3 10	60,717 0 7	2,26,560 2 2
Punjab . . . .	4,725 0 0	2,790 0 0	18,713 0 0	49,576 0 0	1,336 0 0	77,140 0 0	42,000 0 0	29,490 0 1	26,510 8 0	1,75,140 8 1
Central India . . . .	1,300 1 0	8,031 15 0	2,320 6 3	61,492 7 6 <sup>(3)</sup>	231 1 0	73,375 14 9	.....	1,047 11 6	10,994 6 0	85,418 0 3
Burma <sup>(4)</sup> . . . .	69 12 0	.....	35 0 0	81,037 10 9	336 12 0	81,479 2 9	.....	13,256 9 7	148 7 0	94,884 3 4
Berar . . . .	3,671 8 2	4,352 7 7	3,219 13 8	3,733 13 3	418 13 0	15,396 7 8	.....	901 15 3	6,816 10 1	23,115 1 0
Rajputana . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	377 0 11	.....	.....	377 0 11
Baluchistan . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL R . . . .	1,99,328 7 5	76,915 9 0	91,614 9 9	7,84,989 1 0	30,311 9 9	11,83,359 4 11	1,06,377 0 11	5,59,957 9 4	3,07,711 6 6	21,57,405 5 8

(1) Includes Rs.5,000 remitted to the Government of Bengal for the future maintenance of orphans.  
 (2) Includes Rs.50,000 for the relief of sufferers from the Chittagong cyclone.  
 (3) Includes Rs.23,953-13-0 unclassified expenditure.  
 (4) The accounts for Burma were made out to the 28th February 1898.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
 Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.



# APPENDIX K.

Statement showing the combined Accounts of the Central, Provincial and District Committees from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.				Gr.
		R	a. p.		R	a. p.	R	a. p.
1897 Nov. 1st.	TO OPENING BALANCES—			1898. Jan. 31st				
	(1) With Central Committee . .	6,26,687	14 4 (1)		By amount expended under Object I		1,99,528	7 5
	(2) " Provincial Committees . .	5,27,947	14 4		" ditto II		76,915	9 0
	(3) " District Committees . .	14,20,856	13 4		" ditto III		91,614	9 9
	(4) " Bengal Committee, General subscriptions, not remitted	12,306	15 10		" ditto IV		7,84,989	1 0
1898 Jan. 31st.	To Total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898 . . . . .	25,87,799	9 10	"	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.			
"	To Local subscriptions received by Provincial and District Committees . .	75,299	0 11	"	(1) Central Committee . .	3,112 11 6		
"	To General subscriptions received by Bengal Committee . . . . .	30,703	14 5	"	(2) Provincial and District Committees . .	30,311 9 9	33,424	5 3
	Miscellaneous . . . . .	65 0 0			By amount invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper by the Central Committee . . . . .		6,65,000	0 0 (2)
				"	By CLOSING BALANCES—			
				"	(1) With Central Committee . .	53,205 9 4		
				"	(2) " Provincial Committees . .	5,47,585 9 6		
				"	(3) " District Committees . .	3,07,711 6 6		
				"	(4) " Bengal Provincial Committee, General subscriptions, not remitted .	12,371 15 10	9,20,874	9 2
	TOTAL R . . . . .	27,72,346	9 7		TOTAL R . . . . .		27,72,346	9 7

(1) Includes Rs6,00,000 reserved for orphans and invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper.

(2) Government Paper of the nominal value of Rs3 lakhs has been sent to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces for the further maintenance of famine orphans in his administration.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

# APPENDIX L.

Statement showing the combined Accounts of the Central, Provincial and District Committees from the commencement of operations to the 31st January 1898.

Dr.

## RECEIPTS.

## EXPENDITURE.

Cr.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.
To Total amount of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee . . . . .	1,46,04,283 8 9	By Amount expended under object I . . . . .	10,60,270 11 10
To Local Subscriptions received by Provincial and District Committees . . . . .	20,93,705 2 7	Ditto II . . . . .	1,53,812 0 11
To Miscellaneous . . . . .	2,95,815 8 2	Ditto III . . . . .	26,83,293 15 4
To General subscriptions received by Bengal Provincial Committee not yet remitted . . . . .	12,371 15 10	Ditto IV . . . . .	1,13,76,632 11 5
		By Miscellaneous Expenditure—	
		(1) Central Committee . . . . .	40,560 12 5
		(2) Provincial and District Committee . . . . .	1,05,731 6 3
		By Amount invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper by the Central Committee . . . . .	1,46,292 2 8
		By Closing Balances—	6,65,000 0 0
		(1) With General Committee . . . . .	53,205 9 4
		(2) „ Provincial Committees . . . . .	5,47,585 9 6
		(3) „ District Committee . . . . .	3,07,711 6 6
		(4) „ Bengal Provincial Committee on General subscriptions, . . . . .	12,371 15 10
TOTAL R . . . . .	1,70,06,176 3 4	TOTAL R . . . . .	1,70,06,176 3 4

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

# APPENDIX M.

## INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Dr. *Account of Receipts and Expenditure from 1st February to 12th March 1898.* Cr.

	R	a.	p.		R	a.	p.
To Balance on the 1st February 1898 . . . . .	53,205	9	4	By Payment made to the North-Western Provinces Government to make up the sum of Rs 3 lakhs allotted to the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the care of their Orphans . . . . .	30,505	11	7
To amount invested in $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Government Paper . . . . .	6,65,000	0	0	By Amount transferred from the Fund for Office Expenses, Stationery, etc. . . . .	2,500	0	0
To Total amount of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee, from the 1st February to the 12th March 1898 . . . . .	19,011	8	11*	By Amount paid to E. N. Baker, Esq., C.S., for carriage of gifts of clothing . . . . .	300	0	0
To Amount refunded by the Bengal Provincial Committee, during the above period . . . . .	69,862	3	11	By Miscellaneous . . . . .	0	3	0
				By Amount invested in Government Paper . . . . .	98,000	0	0
				By amount previously invested in do. . . . .	6,65,000	0	0
				By Balance with the Bank of Bengal . . . . .	7,63,000	0	0
					10,773	7	7
TOTAL R . . . . .	8,07,079	6	2	TOTAL R . . . . .	8,07,079	6	2

\* Including Rs12,371-15-10 sent by the Bengal Provincial Committee, subscriptions for the General Fund.

LOVELOCK & LEWES, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

## Investment Account.

NOTE.—Aggregate nominal value of all the Government Paper purchased	Rs. 7,89,800
Deduct—Amount forwarded to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces for the future maintenance of famine orphans in his administration	3,00,000
Balance in hand on the 12th March 1898	Rs. 4,89,800

**LOVELOCK & LEWIS, Chartered Accountants,  
Treasurers, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.**

## APPENDIX O.

### INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

*Minutes of the Proceedings of the 29th Meeting of the Central Committee of the above Fund, held at the Imperial Secretariat Buildings, Calcutta, at 4-30 P.M., on Friday, the 25th March 1898.*

PRESENT :

	THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANCIS W. MACLEAN, K.C.I.E.,	<i>Chairman, Presiding.</i>
"	"	Mr. H. E. M. JAMES, C.S.I., <i>Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary.</i>
"	"	SIR JOHN WOODBURN, K.C.S.I.
"	"	" PATRICK PLAYFAIR, C.I.E.
"	"	BABU JOY GOBIND LAW.
"	"	Mr. M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.
	RAJAH PEARY MOHUN MUKERJI, C.S.I.	
	MR. E. N. BAKER, I.C.S.	
	" C. LAWRIE JOHNSTONE.	

Letters were read from the Hon'ble Mr. A. H. Wallis, Mr. S. Finney and Lieutenant-Colonel W. Bird, regretting their inability to be present at the Meeting.

1. The Minutes of the Proceedings of the 28th Meeting were read and confirmed.

2. A letter No. <sup>260</sup>/<sub>5-213</sub> of 9th March 1898, from the Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, was read, intimating that that Government cannot accept the duty of investigating and weighing the various claims which might be made upon the balance of the Fund for other purposes than Famine Relief, and that the Lieutenant-Governor is not in a position to offer any further suggestions on the request preferred by Bishop Thoburn.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved unanimously that a copy of the above letter be forwarded to Bishop Thoburn with a suggestion that, if he should think fit, he should endeavour to satisfy the Government of the North-Western Provinces that the orphans for whom he desires a grant were made over to him under authority, and that in every case no friends exist who would be willing to adopt them.

3. A letter of 8th March 1898, from D. P. Masson, Esq., C.I.E., V.D., Joint Honorary Secretary to the Punjab Branch Committee, was read, enclosing a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the Provincial Committee, held on the 22nd February 1898, in the 9th paragraph of which the thanks of the Committee are given to the Central Committee, for their kind consideration.

Resolved, unanimously, that the acknowledgments of the Central Committee be conveyed to the Punjab Provincial Committee.

A letter was also read, No. C-51 of 12th March 1898, from the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, conveying the Chief Commissioner's thanks for the munificent gift of Government paper amounting to three lakhs of rupees for the maintenance of orphans. The letter was ordered to be recorded.

4. A draft of the Committee's Second Report prepared by the Vice-Chairman was then considered. The Committee resolved that the preface should be incorporated in the introduction, that for the detailed mention of the services of Provincial Chairman and Secretaries, as drafted by the Vice-Chairman, a single expression of thanks to all alike be substituted, that the thanks proposed to be offered to the Government of India and the heads and members of Local Governments be omitted, that various verbal alterations be made, and that the report should be adopted, the Chairman being authorised to alter the language where necessary, and to sign the report on behalf of the Committee and forward it to His Excellency the President of the General Committee.

5. The draft rules for the custody and disposal of the balances of the Fund, which had been circulated, were then discussed. The Chairman stated that it seemed to him desirable that the Government of India should have some control over future expenditure, and he, therefore, proposed that the rules be approved with the following modifications :—

- (a) That in Rule 8 the name of the Member of Council in charge of the Home Department be inserted.
- (b) That in Rule 2, line 3, after the words "shall have authority." the words "with the consent of the Government of India." be inserted.

And that the rules so modified be forwarded to the Government of India.

The resolution was carried unanimously. The rules are attached to these minutes.\*

6. The Vice Chairman stated that the balance with the Central Committee was Rs. 10,773-7-7, and the investment account (after allowing for three lakhs transferred to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces for orphans) showed Government Promissory Notes in hand of the face value of Rs. 4,89,900. The work of relief and the accounts of every province but two had been wound up, or nearly so. He expected further balances to be returned as follows :—

	R
Central Provinces . . . . .	20,000
Burma . . . . .	12,000
Berar . . . . .	6,000
Punjab . . . . .	40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78,000</b>

The Vice-Chairman further stated that in Madras, where famine still existed, the Provincial Committee had a balance of about Rs. 1,30,000 and famine relief was still in progress. In Bombay also, where plague had been added to famine in some districts, the Provincial Committee expected not to wind up for five months. The Bombay Committee had very recently made fresh remittances to three districts and had a balance of Rs. 26,000, while the districts previously had about Rs. 1,12,000.

The Chairman stated that doubtless the new Committee under the annexed rules would keep a watchful eye on any recoverable balances with a view to their being sent to the Comptroller General, and he proposed that, as the work of the Central Committee was now completed, they should dissolve, after giving to himself and the Vice-Chairman the necessary powers for paying the establishment and winding up any small matters of detail that might be remaining. The following resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

That instructions be sent to all Provincial Committees which may still be in possession of funds that any unspent balances which may ultimately remain unspent be sent to the Comptroller General, for investment, and that no further reports be made to the Central Committee.

7. It was also resolved unanimously—

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised (in accordance with Item 4 of the Minutes of the First Meeting) after the dissolution of the Committee—

- (a) to draw cheques on the Bank of Bengal under their joint signatures and incur such further expenditure as may be necessary for the winding up of the affairs of the Committee ;
- (b) to hand over to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee, created by the Rules sanctioned in Item 4 of these Minutes, Mr. Parsons, a small sum to meet any unforeseen miscellaneous demands (with instructions to return any unspent balance which may remain out of that sum to the Comptroller General) ; and
- (c) to transfer all the rest of the balance, including the Government Promissory Notes, to the Comptroller General.

8. The Chairman then proposed, and it was resolved unanimously that in consideration of the extremely hard work performed by Mr. Metcalfe and the rest of the office establishment, a gratuity of Rs. 500 be given to Mr. Metcalfe and pay for one and a half months be sanctioned for the remainder. The Vice-Chairman explained that the establishment for a long time past, as well as on many occasions during 1897, had been working till past 8 P.M., and that at the very least a large sum was equitably due to them for overtime.

9. It was further resolved that the Chairman be authorised to sign a copy of the Minutes of this Meeting and forward a copy to His Excellency the President of the General Committee, and to express to His Excellency and to the Government of India the thanks of the Committee for the assistance and support which the Committee have always received from the Government of India.

10. On the motion of the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, seconded by Sir Patrick Playfair, it was unanimously resolved that—

The thanks of the Committee be given to the Chairman for the unfailing patience and courtesy with which he has governed their discussions and the minute care he has given to the business of the Fund, and that this vote of thanks be entered on the records of the Committee.

11. It was then resolved unanimously that the Committee be and is hereby dissolved.

*The 25th March 1898.*

FRANCIS W. MACLEAN,  
*Chairman.*

\* A copy will be found in Appendix C, page 126.